DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 61 Section 1 March 15, 1926.

FARM RELIEF

The Associated Press to-day says: "The House agricultural committee will resume to-day consideration of the numerous pending farm relief bills, with indications that hearings will last for a month or more. The delegation from eleven Middle Western States, which came here to advocate crop surplus legislation, conferred yesterday on further details of the bill it will submit to the committee in the next few days. The measure would establish a Federal Farm Board, to contract, through farmers' co-operative organizations or other agencies, for marketing surplus crops at the world price plus the tariff and other costs of importing the commodities affected. The expense would be borne through an equalization fee charged back to the farmer. ...."

IN CONGRESS

Concluding his speech against the proposed long and short haul amendment to the Interstate Commerce Act, Senator Fess March 13 predicted the measure would not be passed by the Senate.

The Senate March 13 agreed to the House amendments to the Muscle Shoals resolution and the Vice President appointed Senate members of the commission to negotiate leases.

Inclusion of naval stores in the cooperative marketing bill drafted by the Department of Agriculture was defended March 13 before the Senate agricultural committee by Carl F. Speh, manager of the Turpentine and Rosin Producers Association of New Orleans. (Press, Mar. 14.)

Senators Wadsworth, of New York, and Reed, of Pennsylvania (Republicans), LaFollette (Republican progressive), and Robinson and Bruce (Democrats), were named by the Vice President March 12 as special committee to investigate the Tariff Commission. (Press, Mar. 13.)

That foreign governmental price control over commodities essential to the industries and progress of the American people holds a serious problem for this country is the conclusion reached by the House committee on interstate and foreign commerce in a preliminary report, submitted to the House March 13, upon its investigation of the control of crude rubber and other commodities. (Press, Mar. 14.)

FARMERS AND RAIL LABOR

The Associated Press to-day states that the National Grange and American Farm Bureau Federation have joined in a move to have the Watson-Parker Railroad Labor bill amended in the Senate to give the Interstate Commerce Commission final power to protect the public from excessive wage awards which might be the basis for freight rate increases.

WORLD'S FARMING DECREASE

The press of March 14 says: "The danger in the steadily decreasing agricultural production of the world was pointed out March 13 by the National Industrial Conference Board, New York, in a compilation based on a survey just completed. The board urged industrialists to consider the problem from the viewpoint of national economy."

Section 2

Cotton Industry

Arthur Lucas, writing on the world cotton industry in The Annalist for March 12 says: "The present unhealthy condition of the British cotton industry is usually spoken of as a depression. Yet this 'depression' has been so profound and has existed so long that one begins to wonder if it may not be a permanent condition. Britain's exports of cotton cloth, on which the prosperity of the British cotton manufacturer largely rests, is now only about 60 per cent of its pre-war volume. ....According to the generally accepted explanation, the failure of the cotton industry to revive after 1921 was, and still is, due to the lack of purchasing power in some of the world's most important consuming markets, particularly in the East. Hope is held out that as agricultural conditions improve the demand for cotton fabrics will be stimulated, and Manchester, as well as New England, will be enabled to set its looms in motion again. This optimistic view, unfortunately, does not seem to be justified by actual fact. It overlooks the very considerable growth that has occurred in the cotton industries in other countries. The difficulty is far more serious than simply the stimulation of a sluggish market, although, to be sure, that is no mean task. While it is true that the consuming ability of certain markets is less than before the war, it is still true that the cotton cloth production of Great Britain has become a considerably smaller percentage of the world's total output and that this situation seems to be permanent. The sooner this fact is recognized by American as well as by British manufacturers the sooner will they begin to prepare for the intense competition that is inevitably coming. In spite of the tremendous reduction in the British output, the total world production of cotton fabrics is not declining. The cloth is being woven somewhere and what England has lost some other country has gained. The amount of cotton being woven into cloth is not appreciably less now than in 1913."

Cotton Production

Clarence Ousley, director of the Texas Safe Farming Association, is the author of an article entitled "Will the South Free Herself from Slavery to Cotton" in Commerce and Finance for March 10. In this he says: "That cotton doesn't always pay the cost of production is beside the question. Now and then it pays a handsome profit. Since betting on horse races is forbidden by law and cock-fighting is taboo, we like to take a gambler's chance on cotton. Really, that is what cotton production has come to be--not scientific agriculture, not economic industry, not sane business, but downright-- and in some respects low down-- gambling. East of the Mississippi River the cotton bondsman, the cotton gambler, plants to the limit of credit the banker will allow and secretly hopes for a drought in Texas and Oklahoma. West of the river the cotton bondsman, the cotton gambler, plants to the limit and secretly hopes that the boll weevil will increase and multiply in 'the sticks' of the old South. Both hope-- when, perchance, they think -- that the monsoon will miscarry in India and the pink bollworm will thrive in Egypt. About one year in five the gambler wins and then he splurges. About two years in five he loses, stints himself, renews his note and prays for better luck. The other two years he breaks even and 'gets by.'...."

Forest Week

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 13 says: "President Coolidge and the Dominion Government have each designated April 18 to 24 as American Forest week. Behind the action of the two Governments lies this sinister fact -- that in regard to our timber supply we have been living in a fool's paradise. Soon and unpleasant will be the awakening unless we take instant steps to correct past blunders. Soil erosion and dwindling streams are witnesses to our neglect of the forests. Everything that we eat, wear or otherwise enjoy is in some way connected with the product of the forests. We can not travel a mile by train or auto without testifying to our dependence upon timber. ....Forests are of individual and of national concern, and justification for the statement that we are living in a fool's paradise is in this one fact: We are nearing the end of our virgin forests and, although consumption is four times as rapid as renewal, we are doing almost nothing about it. Fire is one serious menace, and that is inadequately guarded against. But even ample fire protection will not alone restore the forests. There must be reforestation coupled with fire protection to insure the timber supply of the future. A reason why this has not been done more extensively in the past is our unbusinesslike conception of taxation. A tree requires from 50 to 70 years to mature, yet we shut our eyes to that fact and tax growing timber at its present value as though it could be cut immediately. Timber is a crop just as much as corn or cotton, but instead of being an annual it requires a lifetime to develop for harvesting. Would it be equitable to value a crop of corn and then multiply the taxes by 50 or 70? Yet the man who raises a crop of timber must pay taxes at least 50 times on it before he gets his return. What surer way to discourage reforestation? If we are to get out of this fool's paradise without serious loss the States must one and all overhaul their taxation systems so as to relieve the man willing to replant of the burden of taxation. The farmer is not taxed on the value of all the crops of corn he expects to raise in the next 50 years. The forest owners should be treated as other crop producers and made to pay a tax on the value of their timber crop only when it is harvested. Unless this is done we are not likely to encourage reproduction of the timber supply."

Japanese Agriculture

A Tokio dispatch to the press of March 12 says: "One of the most significant pronouncements by an authority on the financial affairs of Japan has been made by Nakaji Kajiwara, who declares that the farmers of Japan will receive nearly three-quarters of a billion yen more for 1925 production than for 1924. His estimate of the increase, due to a bumper rice crop and the brisk silk market in the United States, is approximately half the entire national budget of Japan. It is 748,000,000 yen ($322,000,000), an astonishing figure, and one reason why Japan's exchange rate has been going up. ...."

Jews on Farms

A New York dispatch to the press of March 13 states that 75,000 Jews in the United States are farming 1,000,000 acres of land and their real estate holdings and personal property are valued at more than $100,000,000, the annual report of the Jewish Agricultural Society, Inc., said March 12. Last year, the report said, the society's extension department visited 1573 Jewish farmers, instructing them in up-to-date farming.

Minnesota Bars Corn Borer

A St. Paul dispatch to the press of March 13 states that the importation of corn, broom corn, sorghum, sudan grass and a variety of other field plants from areas in certain New England States, Ohio and Michigan which are known to be infected with the European corn borer has been barred by Minnesota. Exception is provided in the quarantine order for plants or plant products which have been manufactured or processed in such manner as to eliminate all risk of transmitting the borer.

North Dakota Wheat Elevators

A Grand Rapids, N. D., dispatch to the press of March 13 states that the North Dakota Wheat Growers' Association will buy, lease or build from 200 to 250 elevators in North Dakota, it was announced March 12. It is expected the elevator system will be ready to handle the wheat of the 1926 wheat pool.

Reclaimed Land Yields

The value of apples grown on twelve of the Federal irrigation projects in 1925 amounted to more than $5,500,000, according to a statement issued recently by the Department of the Interior. A recent compilation prepared by Elwood Mead, Commissioner of the Reclamation Service, shows that in that year 23,758 acres were included in apple orchards on the Orland project, California; Uncompahgre project, Colorado, and other projects in New Mexico, Washington, Utah, Wyoming and Oregon. Although the total acreage in 1925 was about 1,000 acres less than in 1924, the value of the apple crop in 1925 was more than $1,500,000 greater than in the preceding year, and the value of the crop per acre more than 40 per cent greater. The Yakima project in Washington leads all other projects in acreage, yield, yield per acre, value and value per acre. Sixty-five per cent of the total acreage, nearly 80 per cent of the total yield and more than 75 per cent of the total value of apples are found on this project. On this project the average value of apples per acre in 1925 amounted to $282, compared with the average value per acre of all the projects of $238.81. (Press, Mar. 10.)

Rubber Industry

The Annalist for March 5 quotes the following from the Guaranty Survey: "The serious problem which now faces the rubber industry is that with the present rubber acreage and the probable annual increase in rubber consumption we are confronted with a prospective rubber shortage within a few years. There has been little planting since 1918 and practically none since 1920. Trees planted at the present time will not yield to any considerable extent until about 1932. It has been authoritatively estimated that in about three years consumption will overtake the potential production from the present area and that by 1931 the accumulated supplies will have been consumed and an actual shortage will result. This analysis is, of course, based upon the maintenance of the present technological and psychological basis. The increased use of reclaimed rubber and of rubber substitutes may upset these calculations. The vagaries of consumption in the face of extremely high prices must also be reckoned with. Under the stimulus of high prices the production of reclaimed rubber in the United States has increased from 179,200,000 pounds in 1924 to 320,320,000 pounds in 1925. The Department of Commerce calls attention to the growing capacity of the reclaimed rubber industry, and estimates that about 448,000,000 pounds will be produced and used in 1926. It must be observed, however, that with present methods of reclamation only from 10 to 15 per cent. of reclaimed rubber can be used in tire production.

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In any event, the efforts of American rubber manufacturers to enter the field of rubber production on a much larger scale are entirely praiseworthy. At the present time less than 4 per cent of rubber investment is in the hands of American capital. ....Apropos of the outlook for a shortage in the near future, it should be observed that the exceptional demand occasioned by the advent of the balloon tire could not have been foreseen four or five years ago. The difficulty of adjusting agricultural requirements of present-day industry constitutes one of the major problems of modern economic life."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products For the week ended March 13: Potatoes ranged 20 to 40¢ higher than a week ago. New York sacked Round Whites $4.35 to $4.55 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; mostly $4.05 f.o.b. Rochester. Apple markets dull. New York Baldwins sold mostly at $3.25 to $3.50 per barrel in leading city markets; $3 to $3.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage 25 to 50¢ lower at $2 to $2.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Onions firm. Best midwestern yellow onions ranged $2.25 to $2.75 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; top of $3.25 to $3.50 in New York City.

Cattle receipts at seven large mid-western markets for the week were around 7,500 more than a week ago but about 2,800 less than the same period a year ago. Calf receipts were slightly greater than last week and around 1,800 head more than a year ago; receipts of hogs showed a loss of around 13,000 compared with a week ago and were about 35,000 less than a year ago. Sheep receipts this week were larger than for the two previous periods. Compared with a week ago fed steers were strong to 15¢ higher, stockers and feeders were firm, top yearlings brought $11.35 with heavies upward to $11; Vealers were $1 lower. Sheep, compared with a week ago fat lambs were mostly 25¢ lower with spots 50¢ off, fat yearling wethers sharing the fat lambs decline. Feeding and shearing lambs steady.

Grain market firm. Wheat prices sharply higher with more active European demand for grain and higher foreign markets. Premium for milling wheat strengthening in Northwest. Cash corn working higher on moderate receipts and better demand although futures about same as week ago. Oats futures fractionally higher and cash oats firm with corn.

Butter markets were sensitive during the week. Price advances occurring early in the week were sustained not without some effort and some stock accumulations were noted. Production reports show slight increases over preceding weeks and heavy increases over the corresponding week of last year. Closing prices on 92 score: New York 43 3/4¢; Chicago 43¢; Philadelphia 44¢; Boston 44 1/2¢. Cheese markets steadied somewhat and at the board meetings on March 12 prices were unchanged throughout. Trade was quiet, however, with production continuing to run ahead of last year. Storage stocks on March 1 were 42,779,000 pounds. Closing prices on Wisconsin primary markets March 12: Single Daisies 21 1/4¢; Longhorns 21 1/4¢; Square Prints 21 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 4 points during the week, closing at 18.40¢ per lb. New York May future contracts unchanged at 18.72¢.

Hay market practically steady. Quoted March 13: No. 1 timothy- Boston $26.50; New York $27; Pittsburgh $26; Cincinnati $26; Chicago $23; St. Louis $25.50. No. 1 alfalfa - Kansas City $22; Omaha $19.75; No. 1 prairie - Kansas City $14; Omaha $14.75; Chicago $17; St. Louis $18.25; Minneapolis $14. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

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Vol. XX, No. 62 Section 1 March 16, 1926

FARM RELIEF MEASURE The Associated Press to-day says: "Draft of a bill to set up Federal machinery to handle surplus crops was completed yesterday by the farm relief delegation from Middle Western States, and it probably will be submitted to the House agriculture committee to-day. The measure would establish a Federal farm board with authority to contract for the sale of any surplus at a just and reasonable price. To pay for any losses incurred by guaranteeing such a price, an equalization fee would be paid by the producers of each of the four products designated as basic agricultural commodities--wheat, cotton, cattle and hogs. The twelve members of the board, one from each Federal land bank district, would be appointed by the President from a list of eligibles presented by a farm advisory council, elected by farmers' organizations. As far as practicable, crops would be marketed by the cooperative associations. To meet the corn situation an embargo against its importation would be put into effect for one year. There would be no equalization fee on corn, but it would share in the benefits of the other commodities.

"Concluding his testimony before the committee yesterday, Carl Vrooman, former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, charged the Republican party with failing to aid the farmers during the five years it has been in power, and Chairman Haugen challenged him to show that any Democratic Congress had done more. Mr. Vrooman suggested that the Senators and Representatives from farming communities form a bloc, regardless of party affiliations, and push through farm relief legislation. He indorsed the Robinson-Oldfield bill to pay bounties on crop exports and extend credit to European buyers."

RADIO CONTROL BILL The White radio bill passed the House yesterday by a vote of 218 to 124. The measure now goes to the Senate. Recommended at the recent conference, the bill would empower the Secretary of Commerce to classify radio stations and operators, prescribe the nature of service which broadcasting stations may render, assign wave lengths and frequencies and the time during which stations may be operated and determine the location of stations. The head of the Commerce Department is also directed to regulate the purity and sharpness of radio transmissions and the equipment which may be used; define the areas to be assigned to particular stations, cause stations to be inspected and draft regulations to prevent interference. An important provision empowers the President to seize stations and equipment in war time. (Press, Mar. 16.

OTHER LEGISLATION The Senate agricultural committee yesterday favorably reported the Capper bill prohibiting discrimination against farm cooperative marketing associations by boards of trade and similar organizations.

Under terms of a resolution by Senator Trammell yesterday, the Bureau of Public Roads would be prohibited from changing existing designations of interstate highways.

Senator Deneen yesterday was chosen chairman of the joint Congressional committee to negotiate leases for Muscle Shoals.

The House agricultural committee yesterday approved a bill to create the office of agricultural attache to be stationed at advantageous places throughout the world. (Press, Mar. 16.)

Section 2

Bakery Mergers Discussed by Alsberg

The Northwestern Miller for March 10 says: "'Combinations in the American Bread Baking Industry' is the title of a remarkable study of the subject just completed by Dr. Carl L. Alsberg, of the Food Research Institute, and published last week by Stanford University Press. The study extends to a total of more than 120 pages, to which is added an appendix of 25 pages in which is given a brief history of the organization of the principal bakery mergers of the past few years. In a prefatory article Doctor Alsberg explains that any analysis of conditions in the baking industry while changes are still kaleidoscopic must necessarily be incomplete and inconclusive....'Monopoly,' says Doctor Alsberg in the opening words of his preface, 'has always been hateful to men. Monopoly in foodstuffs, above all things, has aroused their bitterest opposition. Any movement presenting the appearance of a trend toward monopoly in food calls forth suspicion at once. In the last few years the commercial baking of bread in the United States has presented such appearances, and suspicion of the movement is now at its height. Since monopoly in bread would affect the public interest, it is of not a little importance to look behind appearances and to determine, if possible, what lies there and what it portends to the public welfare.'...The writer realizes that this essay will satisfy neither progressives nor conservatives. He has not been able to convince himself that as a matter of national policy combination in the bread baking industry, honestly financed, should be opposed or yet that it should be encouraged. Whether the changes now going on are episodic merely, or whether they are growth phenomena, is hard to tell. Whether the symptoms now exhibited are growing pains of the manifestations of serious disease can not be diagnosed. Just what the possible performance of large baking combinations can be after they have reached maturity -- not merely maximum size -- can only be a subject for speculation. No one, for example, would have been likely to foresee the present-day development of the oil refining and refined oils industry from what happened in the old trust days.'"

Cooperation in South Africa

An editorial in the Journal of the Department of Agriculture of the Union of South Africa for February says: "Most of the difficulties of farmers are magnified by the lack of organization among them, which prevents them from working together with that perfect combination so necessary to their welfare. Even where some degree of organization has been effected and a local farmers' association or agricultural society formed, there is frequently a lack of organization or cohesion between the different associations, and the united front which is essential to give weight to their resolutions or acts is wanting. Following on the trail of organization comes controlled markets, and, eventually, cooperation. Through lack of organization, a non-regulated supply of farm produce frequently leads to flooded markets, and a resulting slump in prices. Through lack of organization cooperation is delayed, and the wily speculator, playing the one producer against the other, takes the cream of the business. The difficulties besetting the path leading to organization are numerous. The sparseness of population and the great distance which many farmers have to travel, prevent that regular attendance at meetings which is needed to keep up interest in the association. Personal envy and political enmity also tend to prevent smooth working, but a most potent factor is that lack of agricultural education among members--and this is even more pronounced among farmer non-members--which blinds them to their own interests; and as a result matters are too often

judged by the farmer not from a farmer's, but from a party politician's point of view. It would be well if the farmer could put aside party politics when attempting to work for the general good of his brother farmers."

Florida Phosphate Rock — An editorial in The American Fertilizer for March 6 says: "Europe received 720,688 tons of phosphate rock from Morocco in 1925. This is a really remarkable development of an industry which was non-existent at the close of the World War. A standard railroad connects the mines with the port of shipment, equipped with modern handling machinery at both ends of the line. The rock is of good quality, comparable to Florida rock, and will gradually displace the latter throughout Europe. Thus far exports of Florida rock have been well maintained, helped no doubt by the causes which indirectly influence international commerce, such as credits, return cargoes, etc. The owners of the Florida rock naturally dislike to lose their European customers, but the market in the eastern part of the United States will probably increase as rapidly as the exports decrease."

Fur Farms in Canada — The bulk of the Canadian fur supply of the future will not come from the snares of trappers but from domestic farms, according to an announcement March 8 by the Canadian Pacific Railway, recording the extent of the fur farming industry for the last year. While the industry is of recent birth, it is growing in importance so rapidly that the $15,643,647 Canadian fur production of 1925 included a significant part of domestic furs, while the small province of Prince Edward Island alone realized $3,000,000 from the sale of live foxes and pelts from its fur farms. "Fur farming is now carried on in every province of the Dominion," says the announcement. "In addition to foxes, they raise mink, raccoon, skunk, marten, beaver, muskrat, karakul sheep, Siberian hares and chinchilla rabbits. New fur farms are springing into existence every week. Expansion of the industry in Western Canada, which formerly confined itself largely to the main branches of agriculture, has been noteworthy. Manitoba has a well-established fox industry, and shipped 125 live foxes last year. Ranches have also sprung up in every section of British Columbia, while Saskatchewan in one year quadrupled the number of its fox farms and added skunk, coyotes and mink. Alberta, which leads in the industry in the West, also has farms of mink, raccoon and karakul sheep. Government channels are encouraging farmers to regard fur farming as an interesting side issue to their main activities....."

House on European Conditions — Colonel House is the subject of an interview, conducted by E. D. King, in The Magazine of Wall Street for March 13. He is quoted as saying: "Europe is commencing to realize more poignantly that the destinies of individual nations are bound up with one another, that a martial attitude may be a harbinger of future disruption. She realizes keenly the immensely weakened financial and economic position which has resulted from the war and that further deterioration means inevitable ruin. Hence, created by necessity itself and an universal desire for security, there is being nurtured to-day a spirit of compromise rather than revenge, of peace rather than war....Nor does Locarno mark the final effort toward peace. Locarno meant a rapprochement between the leading nations of Europe: Great Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, principally. It did not, however, include Russia, for which I shall reserve some special remarks. Nor is it the final step toward a solution of the still existing Balkan difficulties. The Balkans still remain a sore spot but there are reasons

to believe that within a year or two there will be a conference similar to Locarno but with the avowed purpose of arranging a peace basis in the Balkans. This would settle another source of dispute and would mark the final culminating effort to secure peace for all of Continental Europe, except Russia. Even Russia, however, does not present the same problem as several years ago. The Soviet Government, too, apparently, desires a period in which to be left to work out her internal problems, of which she has sufficient, so that as a factor militating in the direction of European disruption, she is becoming less potent. It is possible, however, that the Soviet Government intends to pursue a peace policy in Europe, reserving her efforts toward political and economic penetration of Asia. Russian eyes are turned East. In China and India, possibly, she perceives her destiny rather than in Europe. This remains one of the uncertain situations to-day; but even so, I am confident that no untoward developments of importance will occur....Europe is slowly working her way out of the chaos caused by the war and faces a long period of peace and constructive effort."

Inland Waterways

An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for March 13 says: "It is highly probable that the people of this country have good ground to be well pleased with the tangled controversy that has of late all but engulfed the whole matter of connecting the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean by means of a ship canal. It at least appears to insure the Nation for the time being against being called upon to lay out large sums of money for the construction of waterways that have not been duly considered and surveyed with sufficient care in all of their angles and aspects.... Of course few careful students of these matters are inclined to take very seriously the bright pictures that for a good while past have been drawn of ocean liners regularly docking at lake ports. Most transportation authorities are in the habit of adding a proverbial grain of salt to current estimates of the savings in freight that would be available to the western farmer by the construction and operation of canals of the sort now suggested. Let us suppose, however, for the sake of argument, that if adequately subsidized, directly or indirectly, wheat shipments say from Chicago, Duluth or other lake ports to European market centers would cost appreciably less under these canal arrangements, and that the movement of European goods to interior points in this country were similarly benefited. Just in what position would such a development place the Nation, and particularly the population of Middle Western States? ....That then leaves only the Middle Western farmer as producer who could in any case stand to gain. What of his prospects? It would of necessity require a very considerable period of time to construct such waterways as are now being urged and to get them into full operation. Practically all students of international trade in grains and other foodstuffs agree that before very many years we shall in the normal course of events cease to be an exporting nation in respect of such products and shall in the course of time become, on the contrary, net importers. If this is actually the case the agricultural industry can not in the nature of the case be benefited as suggested except at most during a relatively short transition period.... The canal projects would, if they had been consummated, then tend to make importations easier and thus to minimize such premiums. Even in the interim, if farmers permit each advantage that may accrue to them to stimulate them to bring into cultivation more and more marginal land as they did during the war and as they since have shown an abiding disposition to do, the benefits of the canals would tend to flow more to the foreign consumer than to the domestic producer....."

Prices in France

Wholesale prices in France, according to the index number compiled by the French Statistical Bureau and transmitted to the Bankers Trust Company of New York by its French information service, increased from 646 at the end of December 1925 to 647 at the end of January last. This official index number is calculated on a basis of 100 in July 1914 for the average price of 45 different articles out of which 20 represent foodstuffs. Retail prices also showed an increase in December, according to the official index number for Paris which is based on the retail prices of 13 essential articles, i.e. breads, meat, lard, butter, eggs, milk, cheese, potatoes, beans, sugar, oil, kerosene and methylated spirits and which rose from 463 in December 1925 to 480 in January 1926.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

March 15: Chicago hog prices closed at $14.25 for the top, bulk of sales $11.60 to $13.60; beef steers choice $10.60 to $11.35; heifers, good and choice, $7.25 to $10.60; medium and common $6 to $8.85; cows, good and choice, $6.65 to $8.15; canner and cutter $3.75 to $4.75; vealers, medium to choice $10 to $13.25; heavy calves, medium to choice $6.25 to $8; stocker and feeder steers $6.75 to $9.35; fat lambs, medium to choice $12.50 to $14.40; yearling wethers, medium to choice, $9 to $12; fat ewes, common to choice $5.50 to $9; feeding lambs, medium to choice $12.50 to $14.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes ranged 10 to 40¢ higher at $4.15 to $4.65 per 100 pounds in eastern markets and $4.05 f.o.b. Rochester. Delaware and Maryland yellow varieties sweet potatoes $2.50 to $2.75 per bushel hamper in eastern markets. Tennessee Nancy Halls $1.75 to $1.85 in Chicago. New York Baldwin apples closed at $3 to $3.50 per barrel in eastern cities and $3. f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage dropped 25 to 75¢ to a general jobbing range of $2 to $2.25 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43 3/4¢; Chicago 43¢; Philadelphia 44 1/2¢; Boston 44¢.

Grain prices quoted March 15: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.62 to $1.77. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.78. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.70. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 68¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 72¢; St. Louis 71 1/2¢; No.3 white corn St.Louis 71¢. No 3 white oats Minneapolis 37¢; St.Louis 41 1/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 3 points, closing at 18.37¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 1 point, closing at 18.73¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Mar. 15,	Mar. 13,	Mar. 14, 1925
20 Industrials	150.65	150.07	124.16
20 R.R. stocks	109.03	109.06	99.17

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 16.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 63 Section 1 March 17, 1926.

FARM RELIEF BILL The press to-day says: "A bill submitted yesterday by farmers of eleven Mid-western States through their Committee of Twenty-two, to the House agriculture committee apparently faces strong opposition. The measure drew fire at once from Representative Tincher, a member of the committee, who termed it 'the worst conglomeration and mess' he had ever seen. One of Mr. Tincher's main objections to the bill was that it did not mention corn as one of the basic commodities, and not to include corn, he said, was 'absurd.' The bill is a combination of the Dickinson and various other similar measures. It would establish a Farm Advisory Council of five members in each land bank district and a Federal Farm Board to be composed of one member from each land bank district to be chosen by the President. The farm board would be empowered to deal with surpluses by withholding or selling them abroad through official agencies. An initial appropriation of $250,000,000 is recommended as a revolving fund to furnish capital for the farm board, the fund to be replenished and expenses to be met from an equalization fee levied on farm commodities sold. The basic commodities named are wheat, cotton, hogs and cattle. Corn is not included, but the farm board would be authorized to use $100,000,000 of the appropriation for the purchase of corn in time of emergency."

BAKING MERGER HEARING An Associated Press dispatch to-day says: "George G. Barber, chairman of the board of directors of the Continental Baking Corporation, testified yesterday in New York that the corporation, in taking over the stock of other companies, stipulated that officers, directors and stockholders of such companies should not re-enter the baking business within a period of five years, or in a radius of fifty miles of their original business. Mr. Barber outlined this as the corporation's policy during his testimony before John W. Addison, examiner for the Federal Trade Commission, which alleges that the corporation has violated the Clayton act by acquiring the stock of other bakeries in this country in such a way as to stifle competition and to build up a monopoly. The Continental has taken over the stock of eighty more baking companies since November, 1924."

HOOVER ON FOREIGN TRADE An Associated Press dispatch to-day says: "Six cardinal points on which America's successful participation in world trade in the future hinges were set forth in an address by Secretary Hoover last night before the Export Managers' Club of New York. He said the United States would hold her own in world commerce if: The social and economic forces developed so greatly in the last decade are kept in motion. Education and skill are multiplied and improved. Scientific research is further stimulated. Elimination of industrial waste is continued. Business organization is improved and private initiative maintained. 'By contributing to peace and economic stability, by the loan of our surplus savings abroad for productive purposes, by the spread of inventions over the world,' he added, 'we can contribute to the elevation of standards of living in foreign countries and the demand for all goods.'....."

Section 2

Agricultural Relief

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 16 says:

"Congressional farm relief, like an incubator, is steadily hatching new plans to make the farmers prosperous. The last to break its shell was handed to the House committee on agriculture by Hon. E. T. Meredith whose record as a former Secretary of Agriculture should give weight to his views. But the chick he sponsors is so impossible that it will be a mercy to the country if it is given the Congressional ax before it reaches the pinfeather stage. This new plan, offered as a substitute for the Dickinson bill, functions around an Agricultural stabilizing committee. Wheat, corn, cotton, sugar, butter and wool will be the objects of the committee's, and therefore of the Government's solicitude. The 'committee' will look into the future and procure information concerning crop prospects, probable demand in foreign and domestic markets and other pertinent matters. Thus prepared, it will fix minimum prices about a year in advance. There are difficulties in the way so serious that it is hardly necessary to look the fledgling over any further.... To illustrate the difficulties of such a plan, take cotton, one of the six commodities to be cared for by the 'committee.' The minimum price for the crop to be raised this year is set at 25 cents a pound, thus relieving the committee for a season. How many men in the United States know at what price cotton will sell for the next autumn and winter? Who knows how much will be produced or consumed? Last August the Crop Reporting Board estimated the crop at that time at 13,566,000 bales. Probably this estimate was correct at the time but the final return was about 15,600,000. The change had a tremendous influence on prices. On the 27th of July, 1925, cotton for delivery in December sold at 25.70 cents a pound, but in December it was bought and sold at 19.80. The average export price of cotton last December was 21.8 cents a pound, a difference of about $20 a bale compared with the July price. With a minimum of 25 cents a pound, or $125 a bale, in operation, and foreign consumers refusing to pay more than 21.8 cents and 7,500,000 bales surplus for export, the committee would have a costly white elephant on its hands. Let the congressional ax be sharpened for plans like this."

Baking Mergers

"To understand the probable effect of combination of bakeries upon milling, the situation needs to be viewed against the broad background of the development and present situation in flour milling. American flour milling is an overextended industry. During the past decades the geographical relations of the industry have been shifting. The developments of agriculture--as expressed in the regional expansion of wheat growing up to the beginning of the century, the relatively stationary position until the opening of the war, the abnormal expansion during and directly after the war, and the subsequent contraction, and the relations of Canadian wheat supply to Lake Erie milling--have thrown wheat growing and wheat milling out of alignment. This has been aided by regional developments in growth of population and by the railway rate structure. This malalignment between wheat growing and wheat milling finds expression in part in the distorted relation between mill capacity and mill outturn. Practically speaking, flour production is rarely over 60 per cent of mill capacity. This does not mean that in the different regions the several mills operate at the same relation of outturn to capacity--quite the contrary; in some regions and with some mill groupings the outturn is much higher, while in other regions and with other mill groupings it is much lower. This finds expression in the fact that milling companies find it competitively

necessary to erect new mills at one point, while existing mills at another point can operate only at partial capacity. Competition between the flours of different wheat areas and between different milling groups thus continues to lead to expansion at the time when the industry as a whole is clearly suffering from overexpansion." (Carl L. Alsberg, Director, Food Research Institute, Stanford University, in his pamphlet on the bakery merger movement in America.)

Creamery Sales

A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of March 16 states that the Minnesota Cooperative Creameries Association, which markets most of its output in Boston, Philadelphia and New York, sold more than twice as much butter in 1925 as it did in 1924, the annual report made there last week shows. Sales last year aggregated 79,000,000 pounds against 32,000,000 pounds in 1924.

Farm Problem Study Proposed

Disclaiming any desire to solve the farmer's problem for him, or to suggest specifically how he could solve it for himself, the National Industrial Conference Board, New York, in its report on agriculture, made public March 14, suggested a plan for a joint and sympathetic study of the situation by leading representatives of industry, commerce, transportation and finance, in conjunction with leading agriculturalists. "The whole weight of the board's proposal lies in urging that "because of the close interdependence of agriculture and our industrial and commercial business structure, the problem is not the farmer's problem alone but one which concerns all classes of the population." The statement summarizing the report declared that the board "at this time does not go beyond the proposal of a cooperative, joint study of the economic aspects of the agricultural situation and its efforts on the rest of our business structure and general national welfare." The agricultural problem, according to the report, is that since the beginning of the rapid and intensive development of industrial, commercial and financial life toward the end of the last century, agriculture has fallen out of step, and that there has evolved a progressive maladjustment and inequality between the economic position of agriculture and that of the other branches of our national economy. (Press, Mar. 15.)

Food Shortage Predicted

An Associated Press dispatch March 16 says: "The world must turn to science in its search for food, Dr. Samuel C. Prescott said in a lecture at Cambridge, Mass., March 15. Doctor Prescott, head of the Department of Biology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said that unless new sources and more efficient methods of production and preservation were found, or some method devised to synthethize foods from abundant cheap materials, the world would face a food shortage in the next century. He predicted that the first great retrenchment in the world's food supply would come in meat, and that the present generation might live to see a great proportion of its meat coming from the Arctic region, with its reindeer and caribou, and from tropical countries, where goats and some types of cattle could be raised in large numbers. Soy beans, peanuts and bananas might come to rank among the most important food sources, the consumption of fish would increase tremendously, and corn would be used more generally as human food, Doctor Prescott said, and land now used for cattle raising would in the future be given over to intensive agriculture purposes."

Horse Business An editorial in The Michigan Farmer for March 6 says: "Farmers are going into the horse-breeding business again. Registrations of stallions show an increase for the first time in nine or ten years. Every person having good horses is now turning an eager eye toward this form of property, believing that it will increase in value....Poor horses will not have a ghost of a show in the power competition that now prevails....Men will choose to look upon a well-designed machine in preference to a homely horse; but who can design a power unit that will win the eye from a well-bred Clydesdale, Percheron, or Belgian? By looks and efficiency in certain kinds of work, the good horse will continue to be the helper of man."

International Good Roads "International Good Roads" is the title of an extensive review of the roads of other countries in Commerce Monthly (New York) for March. This says:"....France, well known for its fine roads and a pioneer in their construction, drainage and maintenance, has possessed for over a hundred years a smooth-functioning system of Government control over its excellent national highways....English roads in general compare favorably with the French, but definite unified control dates only from 1909 and was a direct outgrowth of difficulties created by the automobile. The creation of the Road Board at that time shifted the heavy cost of maintaining important roads from local parishes or counties to the National Government. Since that time Government control has been extended and the proportion of expense borne by Parliament has increased. Italy's national roads are less important than its provincial roads. However, the main provincial roads are well built and kept in good condition. Whereas the State formerly paid only a small part of road costs, it now meets one-half of the expense of first-class roads and one-fourth for the second-class, the rest being met by the provinces and communes....In Norway roads are now deemed so essential to the country's development that expenditures have increased 400 per cent since 1913, the annual outlay now being 34,000,000 kroner, derived from automobile, customs revenue and direct taxes. Automobile registration is twenty-eight times higher than in 1913. Centralized supervision and authority over the trunk highways were increased by an act passed in 1912....Highway expansion stands as the most significant transportation development since the advent of the railroads. Increasing motor-vehicle registration is the best indication of the wide sweep of this movement as a good-road program usually accompanies extended use of the automobile, although in turn, increased traffic follows improved highways. Among the incalculable economic benefits of good roads to a community are cheaper transportation costs, better standards of living, the opening up of potentially rich and unexploited districts formerly inaccessible, improvement of regions already served and a general increase of commercial activity."

Production and Commerce of France Georges Robineau, Governor of the Bank of France, in his annual report, issued March 10, says: "Commerce and industry during the course of the year proved once more that the country is courageously continuing its patient work of reconstruction in spite of all the difficulties caused by the financial situation. The efforts accomplished since the Armistice by our mining industries enabled us this year to equal and in certain cases even to considerably surpass pre-war production figures. The total yield of our mines for the whole year would seem to exceed by nearly 2 million tons the 1913 output, account being taken of the Alsace-Lorraine production. For the first eleven months of 1925 our coal mines

yielded nearly 44 million tons as against 41 million tons during the corresponding period of 1924. The production of iron and pig iron has nearly attained pre-war figures while that of steel already exceeds the 1913 output quite appreciably. Our cereal crops also have reached the highest figures known since the war. The wheat crop totalled 89 million quintals, exceeding last year's crop by 13 million quintals. This result is all the more encouraging in that it is due to a considerable increase in the amount yielded per hectare. This evident activity, courage and perseverance which are manifested by our country as much now as in the past and at the most critical times, remain the surest basis for our confidence in the future."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 16: Chicago hog prices closed at $14.15 for the top, bulk of sales $11.50 to $13.60. Beef steers choice $10.50 to $11.35; heifers, good and choice, $7.25 to $10.50; cows, good and choice $6.75 to $8.25; canner and cutter $3.75 to $4.75; vealers, medium to choice, $9.75 to $13; calves good and choice, $6 to $7.75; fat lambs, $12.50 to $14.50; yearling wethers, medium to choice, $9 to $12; fat ewes, common to choice $5.50 to $9; feeding lambs medium to choice $12.50 to $14.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes sold at a range of $4.35 to $4.65 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $4.05 to $4.15 f.o.b. Rochester. Baldwin apples from New York State closed at $3 to $3.50 per barrel in eastern markets; $3 to $3.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage mostly $2 to $2.25 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Midwestern yellow onions sold at a range of $2.75 to $3.50 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; shippers asking $3 f.o.b. Western Michigan.

Grain prices quoted March 16: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.60 to $1.74. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.77. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.70. No.4 mixed corn Minneapolis 67¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 71 1/2¢; St.Louis 71 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 70¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 40 1/4¢; Minneapolis 36 3/4¢; St. Louis 41¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 2 points, closing at 18.59¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 4 points, closing at 18.77¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Mar. 16,	Mar. 15,	Mar. 16, 1925
	20 Industrials	149.88	150.65	120.76
	20 R.R. stocks	108.85	109.03	97.63

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 17.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XX, No. 64 Section 1 March 18, 1926

IN CONGRESS The Senate agricultural committee agreed yesterday to vote tomorrow on the cooperative marketing bill submitted by the Department of Agriculture. Chairman Norris said there was "no opposition to the bill as a whole, either in the committee or the Senate." Charles W. Holman, of the National Board of Farm Organizations, and Walton Peteet, of the National Council of Farm Cooperatives, indorsed the bill before the committee yesterday.

Senator Trammell, of Florida, introduced a resolution yesterday authorizing the interstate commerce committee to investigate existing high freight and express rates on citrus and other fruits and vegetables.

The Senate agricultural committee yesterday reported the Capper bill, designed to prevent discrimination by boards of trade and similar bodies against cooperative marketing associations.

Muscle Shoals special committee yesterday issued an appeal urging prospective bidders for that property to submit proposals promptly. (Press, Mar. 18.)

FARM LOAN CREDITS Credit of $2,000,000,000 has been advanced to agriculture through the Federal Farm Loan System since its establishment, the Federal Farm Loan Board declared yesterday in a report to the Speaker of the House. Reporting loans last year of $127,355,000 to 39,905 borrowers by the land banks alone, the board declared "the banks have met fairly all the requirements made upon them for credit." While the loans by the land banks were less than those in 1924, the Joint Stock Land Banks advanced $131,430,000 to 19,699 borrowers last year, compared with $74,586,000 to 11,390 producers in 1924. Through local national farm loan associations, the board said, farmers now practically own the twelve land banks, having furnished $52,000,000 out of the $53,769,000 in their capital accounts. The Intermediate Credit Banks, established in 1923, have done $215,949,000 in business directly with cooperative marketing organizations secured by staple agricultural commodities, and $96,221,000 in farmers' notes have been rediscounted. The largest loans last year were made to cooperatives operating in wheat, cotton and wool. (Press, Mar. 18.)

BRITISH AMBASSADOR ON TRADE The Associated Press to-day reports from Chicago: "Peace and war were alternate topics of Sir Esme Howard, British Ambassador, who came to address the Chicago Association of Commerce yesterday. Peace he predicted for years to come. The next world conflict, however, he believed, would be a 'struggle for markets,' which would be waged as bitterly as any that ever grew out of national hatreds or aggression....The great change that has come over foreign offices has been the conviction that economic causes dominate history....."

FLORIDA FREIGHT BAN LIFTED A Tampa dispatch to the press March 17 states that the Seaboard Air Line March 16 lifted its embargo against freight shipments to Florida in less than carload lots.

Section 2

Apricot Outlook A Hanford, Calif., dispatch to the press of March 17 states that apricot growers of the San Joaquin Valley of California, which industry centers in Kings County, had an excellent year in 1925, and the prospects are equally as good or better for this year, it is said. The California Prune and Apricot Growers' Association, the cooperative which handles the bulk of the California apricot crop, states that the market was cleared of its 1925 crop receipts at the end of January. It is estimated $600,000 was realized by the apricot growers of the Hanford district for last year's crop on both the green and dried products.

Business Conditions Clinton W. Gilbert writes in his "Daily Mirror of Washington " for March 13: "You hear the prediction made in Washington that a more critical attitude toward business is going to develop in the future which will turn into a swing toward some new kind of progressivism, the successor of the kind that was fashionable in the days of Roosevelt. The period of indulgence toward business, some observers say, has reached and passed its climax, and the pendulum is due to swing somewhat slowly in the opposite direction. Those who hold this view point to the recent bringing of anti-trust suits against two big food combinations and to the President's recent noticing the criticism of the issuance of nonvoting stock to the public by inviting the chief critic of this recent tendency of finance, Prof. William Z. Ripley, to a conference at the White House. Members of the President's Cabinet say privately that the brakes have got to be put on the present movement toward consolidations, with its centering of industrial control in Wall Street banking houses....."

Butter Tariff An editorial in Chicago Dairy Produce for March 9 says: "No surprise, but a great deal of interest was manifested in the President's announcement of the butter tariff increase. His action was expected, and the only question was as to when his decision would be made....As to immediate effect it was not thought that the announcement of the increase will make much difference. It was noticeable immediately in the market on storage butter for March delivery, in some advances which were not sustained, but so far as storage butter is concerned it was felt that the main effect would be to make holders more confident, or as one dealer said: 'They will feel that they will not have to give it away in order to get rid of it before the new season opens.' Storage butter, or what is left of it, was in a bad way on account of the liberal make of fresh butter. As to the future, the trade here is not expecting the higher tariff to make much difference. Probably June's will be stored at a little better price--no one placing the increase over 1c--than would have been the case under the 8c tariff. The increase is expected to make some advances, to free the markets from the uneasiness caused by the constant threat of foreign to arrive and, of course, to give the producer a better price for his milk and cream."

Emigration to Canada An Ottawa dispatch to the press of March 17 states that something in excess of $250,000 was spent in the United States last year by the Canadian Department of Immigration and 15,818 United States citizens went into Canada as settlers.

Farm Implement Trade A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of March 17 states that early spring orders for tools and machinery needed for spring farm work points to the busiest season since 1920 in the farm implement business of this region, wholesale dealers believe. At a recent dealers' school conducted

in one of the important farming centers of the Northwest, sales ranging from $250,000 to $300,000 were made, three times the volume of business ever before negotiated during this dealers' school, which is held annually by one of the larger implement manufacturing firms.

Flax Acreage — A St. Paul dispatch to the press of March 17 states that a moderate increase in flax acreage in the United States this year is warranted, a conference of farm college experts concluded after a survey of the situation there. Representatives were present from all the important flax-producing States. It was decided that the needs of crushers will stand an increase of 500,000 acres this year. Last year around 3,000,000 acres were in flax, and the production amounted to 22,000,000 bushels. The conference rated flax as the most profitable grain crop that farmers in the flax belt can produce.

French Population — The problem of increasing France's population is one which is a matter of earnest study in many different circles and organizations of the country and a great deal is being done to give encouragement and help to large families. The results of this campaign are shown in the official figures recently given by Mr. Durafour, Minister of Health, and transmitted to the Bankers Trust Company of New York by its French information service. Compared with the figures of other European countries it would seem that France is the only country whose birth rate is higher than before the war. In 1924 France showed a birth rate of 19.2 per thousand as against 19.1 in 1913.

Fruit Control Charged — A Vancouver, B. C., dispatch to the press of March 15 states that J. A. Simington, head of the Nash Fruit Company, of Indianapolis, three other individuals and four companies were convicted March 14 of conspiring to control the fruit and produce business throughout Western Canada. Several other individuals and thirty companies were acquitted.

Highway Farm Markets — A Trenton, N.J., dispatch to the press of March 17 states that New Jersey will shortly have a State-wide standard farmers' roadside market association. At a meeting in the State House March 16, farmers and officials of the State department of agriculture discussed preliminary plans and gave assurance that the project would be started. The increasing number and popularity of roadside stands operated by farmers, it was said, made necessary the control of the sale of food products in these places for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer. Farmers who become members of the association, it was explained, would be able to demonstrate their responsibility to a central organization, while consumers who dealt with members would obtain standardized products with no danger of misrepresentation.

Milk Duty Increase Asked — A St. Paul dispatch to the press of March 17 says: "Having won their campaign for an increased duty on butter imports, western dairymen are considering appealing for an increase in the duty on milk and cream. It is argued that any decrease in butter imports as a result of the higher tariff will result in larger shipments of milk and cream from Canada, which already sends a considerable quantity of these dairy products into the States. Farm leaders are well pleased with the action of President Coolidge in raising the duty on butter from 8 to 12 cents a pound. They calculate that this will be an added revenue of $9,000,000 annually to Northwest farmers."

Muscle Shoals An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for March 17 says: "Apparently Congress may now make up its mind to lease the water power site and other properties at Muscle Shoals. A concurrent resolution empowering and directing a joint committee to negotiate such a lease and report back to Congress has now been finally adopted and all is ready. Let no one suppose that this question is thus completely and satisfactorily settled. It is quite possible to turn over the plant to private interests under terms and conditions that, in the long run, would be much worse even than for the Government itself to undertake to operate the property. That something of the kind might easily happen may easily be understood when it is recalled how seriously influential members of Congress considered the now famous bid of some years ago made by the Ford interests, and when it is realized how morbidly eager almost every one is at the present time to make a showing before the eyes of the farmer. The truth of the matter is, of course, that Muscle Shoals has about as much to do with agriculture, or ought to have about as much to do with agriculture, as the question of the operation of our ships. The farmer has, like every other group of producers, business men or consumers in the land, the right and the duty to insist that forwardlooking action be taken promptly in this matter. But further than that he is not concerned. He certainly has no more right to ask for special subsidies in this connection than has the New England textile manufacturer or the railroad industry. It is doubtful, in any case, if he would obtain very much advantage from any of the sundry schemes that have been so urgently brought forward in his behalf in connection with this matter of disposing of the Muscle Shoals property...."

Scientific Research An editorial in Price Current-Grain Reporter for March 10 says: "It has been conservatively estimated that manufacturers in the United States spent about $35,000,000 a year in scientific research, and when we stop to consider how comparatively new this particular phase of industry is, the figures are truly amazing. Practically every commodity on the market has been inspected and tested by from one to a dozen scientifically trained men and the consumer to-day has more assurance that the food he and his livestock eat, as well as the things he wears and uses in every other way, are right, than ever before in the world's history. In no other lines of business is this more strikingly true than in the grain, milling and packing industries, and while wonderful things have already been accomplished, the future holds a promise that is unquestionably beyond even the dreams of the most optimistic."

Terminal Development An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for March 6 says: "The plans of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for improved terminal market facilities in Philadelphia will be good news to the fruit and produce shippers to this city. The company will build two immense buildings at the Delaware River, each 650 feet long, where 100 freight cars may be unloaded at one time. Cold storage facilities will be provided where produce may be stored until needed, and provision made for conducting sales by the auction method. Surely, this is a move in the right direction. The present method of piling unloaded produce in small rooms and on the sidewalks around the produce markets where it must be sold at once and in a more or less haphazard way is highly unsatisfactory and is one of the chief causes of gluts and low prices."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 17: Chicago hog prices closed at $13.90 for the top, bulk $11.30 to $13.40, beef steers choice $10.25 to $11.15, good $9.50 to $10.75; heifers, good and choice, $7.25 to $10.50; cows, good and choice, $6.75 to $8.25; canner and cutter $3.75 to $4.75; vealers, medium to choice, $9.75 to $12.75; heavy calves, medium to choice $6 to $7.75; stocker and feeder steers, common to choice, $6.75 to $9.25; fat lambs medium to choice $12.50 to $14.35; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9 to $12; fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9; feeding lambs, medium to choice $12.50 to $14.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $4.35 to $4.65 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $4.15 to $4.25 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples fairly steady at $3 to $3.50 per barrel in eastern markets, $3 to $3.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage about 25¢ lower at $2 to $2.25 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Midwestern yellow onions $2.75 to $3.75 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 43¢; Chicago 42 1/2¢; Boston 43¢; Philadelphia 43 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted March 17: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.59 to $1.73. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.74 1/2; Kansas City $1.70. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.69; Kansas City $1.61 to $1.64. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 66¢; Kansas City 67 3/4¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 69 to 72¢; St. Louis 71 1/2¢; Kansas City 69¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 72¢; Kansas City 69¢; No.3 white oats Minneapolis 36 3/4¢; St.Louis 41¢; Kansas City 40 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 12 points, closing at 18.27¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 10 points, closing at 18.67¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Mar. 17,	Mar. 16,	Mar. 17, 1925
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	20 R.R. stocks	107.91	108.85	96.96

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 18.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XX, No. 65 Section 1 March 19, 1926.

DICKINSON ON FARM LEGISLATION The press to-day says: "Representative Dickinson yesterday carried the farmer's plight to the floor of the House, where he explained and defended the principles of pending legislation, including his own bill, for the handling of surpluses in basic commodities... Mr. Dickinson started out by objecting to the contention that the farmers can not expect relief legislation from Congress because they are not united. He said there had been no unanamity of opinion on tax reduction until various suggestions were thrashed out in the ways and means committee. 'The man who says the farmers ought to go home until they reach a unanimous agreement is a man who is trying to evade the question,' he said. 'Members of Congress ought to get it out of their system that the farmers should be required to get a unanimous agreement before coming here. Why ask the farmer to do the impossible? Why make him do what no other industry in the country is required to do?' Mr. Dickinson said the banker could go to the Comptroller of the Currency with his troubles, the railroad man to the Interstate Commerce Commission and others to various other boards and commissions of the Federal Government. 'But the farmer who comes here to present his grievances has no place to hang his hat,' he said....Mr. Dickinson declared that if the protection given New England by the Federal Government through the tariff were taken away, there would be faster deterioration in industry than there has been on western farms. He said either the farmer's industry would have to be built up in a protective way or other industries would have to be brought down to the farmer's level..... Mr. Dickinson said he would support the new bill presented by the Des Moines farm-relief delegation now testifying before the agriculture committee. This measure differs in detail from his measure, which was indorsed in principle at the Des Moines conference."

Representative Jones suggested that "this delegation from the Corn Belt," proposed to levy an equalization fee on wheat, cotton, cattle and hogs, but not on corn, and Mr. Dickinson said the committee should amend the bill to bring this commodity under the fee system. Representative Tincher attacked the Des Moines delegation's bill on similar grounds at the committee hearing, yesterday, and F. W. Murphy, of the American Council of Agriculture, replied that if the committee considered a fee should be levied on corn it should write it into the bill.

UNITED STATES POPULATION A forecast of the population of the United States on July 1, 1926, is put at 117,135,817, in a survey made public yesterday by the Bureau of Census. The population by the census of 1920 was 105,710,-620, and an estimate made by the Census Bureau on July 1, 1925, had raised that figure to 115,378,094.

DUN'S REVIEW Business in general is of fair volume, with prices satisfactory, says R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Trade Review. Sales of Easter merchandise thus far have been exceptionally large. Manufacturing enterprises are well employed, with the output in most instances in excess of last year's figures for the same period. Rubber manufacturers are in a better position than they were a year ago.

Section 2

Farm Electrical Conference The problem of profitably using electricity on the farm will be discussed in Chicago on May 12 and 13, at a joint conference which has been called by the committee on the relation of electricity to agriculture and the Agricultural Publishers Association, Chicago. The purpose of the conference is to initiate a drive for the extension of power lines or individual power plants on farms. (Manufacturers Record, Mar. 18.)

Food Prices A slight decline in the general level of wholesale prices from January to February is shown by information gathered in leading markets by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. The bureau's weighted index number, which includes 404 commodities or price series, registered 155.0 for February compared with 156.0 for the preceding month. Compared with February, 1925, with an index number of 160.6, there was a decrease of 3-1/2 per cent. Farm products and foods declined appreciably below the level of January. Slightly lower prices were reported also for clothing materials, metals, building materials, chemicals and drugs, and housefurnishing goods. In the group of miscellaneous commodities, due to reduced prices of cattle feed and rubber, there was a decrease of 1-3/4 per cent. Fuels, on the other hand, averaged higher than in January.

The retail food index issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows for February 15, 1926, a decrease of over one and one-half per cent since January 15, 1926; an increase of over six and one-half per cent since February 15, 1925; and an increase of nearly sixty-seven per cent since February 15, 1913. The index number (1913 = 100.0) was 164.3 in January, and 161.5 in February, 1926.

Foreign Food Prices The average level of retail prices of the principal articles of food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland showed a decline at the first of February as compared with the first of January, according to advices received by Bankers Trust Company of New York from its British information service. As a net result of all the changes recorded, which included reductions in the prices of meat, fish, butter, cheese and eggs and slight increases in the prices of tea, bread and flour, the average increase over the level of July 1914 was about 68% at the beginning of February as compared with about 71% at the beginning of January and 76% on the first of February 1925.

Georgia Peach Crop A Fort Valley, Ga., dispatch to the press of March 18 states that revised estimates by growers place the damage to the Middle Georgia peach crop from the recent cold wave at about 50 per cent of promised production. Several days will elapse, however, before definite statistics can be compiled. The Georgia Peach Growers' Exchange has sent experts into the orchards to check the loss.

Home Markets An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for March 16 says: "Alabama farmers, in association, are endeavoring to stimulate the larger buying and use of Alabama products by Alabama people, which is a praiseworthy movement, not only for Alabama, but for other States, Florida included. It is only a fair deal for home people, those in Florida, for instance, to buy home-grown food products more liberally, and thereby encourage as well as reward farmers in the vicinity of their farms, instead of buying and consuming so very much of what is produced elsewhere....The Mobile Register, commenting on a plan of the Alabama farmers, says: 'There is no umbrage to be taken at their desire to win their legitimate share of home

patronage, as long as free competitive opportunity is not withheld from products imported into the State. The balance would not be seriously disturbed, for products sold and consumed in Alabama are products that do not go into other States and compete there for markets. It is logical and businesslike for foodstuffs to be consumed as near their origin as possible.' There are several definite matters that enter into the winning of home markets. They involve business methods that must be adopted and adhered to if farmers are to establish permanent and profitable home markets for their products. First of all -- quality. Farmers and fruit growers can not expect to win and hold their home markets if they do not furnish first-class quality products, and at prices that are reasonable. Too frequently No.1 fruits and vegetables, also eggs and poultry, but the former, particularly, are shipped to distant markets and the home consumers are offered the 'culls,' at least the inferior products, and, in many instances, at No.1 prices, which is not only unfair and unbusinesslike, but is harmful to the growers and producers. Home food consumers reasonably expect to be treated as fairly as are those in distant, or outside, places. Farmers and others who realize this and do business accordingly find no difficulty in gaining a home market that is very profitable."

Imports Menace to Crops The Nation imported $1,818,000,000 worth of agricultural commodities, $1,056,000,000 of which were in direct competition with products of American farms, according to figures for 1925 made public March 17 by the National Industrial Conference Board, New York. "While some of these are imported because not produced in the United States in sufficient quantity," says the report, "this is the case rather because production cost and competitive market prices do not leave sufficient margin to make it pay to produce them here, and not because they could not be produced here in sufficient quantity. This condition is responsible in part for the decline of agricultural production in proportion to our population growth." Some of the leading competitive imports are: Tobacco, $83,881,000; vegetable oils and fats, $75,000,000; cotton, $52,775,000; sugar, syrups and honey, $266,000,000; wool, $141,976,000; oil seeds, $64,725,000; hides and skins, $96,746,000; nuts, $34,283,000; vegetables and vegetable preparations, $36,244,000. The report stresses the necessity of agricultural prosperity to the well-being of the rest of the Nation in view of the investment of $65,000,000,000 capital in 1921, as compared with $44,000,000,000 in manufacturing industries. Agriculture, it says, supplies one-fifth of the total tonnage of the railroads, pays one-fifth of the total cost of Government, buys $6,000,000,000 worth of the products of other industries annually, supplies materials on which depend industries employing one-half of our industrial workers, represents one-fifth of our total tangible wealth and furnishes nearly one-half of our total export values. (Press, Mar. 18.)

Irish Livestock An editorial in The Farmers' Gazette (Dublin) for March 6 says: "This country has a right to be thankful for the clean bill of health which our stock have enjoyed during the past year. While across-Channel the controlling authorities have been strenuously engaged in repressing foot-and-mouth disease among cattle, we on this side have luckily escaped infection, and at the opening of this year never were Irish stock freer from any serious forms of disease....Irish stock-owners will be gratified to note that the foot-and-mouth trouble in England, which has persisted for so long, now appears to have exhausted

itself. The surprising features of the cross-Channel visitation was the length of time during which it persisted, notwithstanding the drastic enforcement of the slaughter system, the peculiar and sporadic manner in which outbreaks appeared at centres widely apart, and finally the uncertainty which still prevails as to the agency through which the disease is spread...."

Reindeer Meat The New York Times of March 18 states that Carl J. Lomen of Nome, Alaska, known as the "Reindeer King," arrived in New York March 17 to continue his campaign to make reindeer meat a staple article of American diet. He expressed the opinion in an interview at the New York City Club, that because the cattle-raising industry had not kept pace with the growing population of the United States there would be a meat shortage within ten years, and that in time this country would have to turn to reindeer meat as a substitute for beef. Mr. Lomen is also here to cooperate with a national committee that has been formed to promote a reindeer week throughout the country, from April 5 to 10. During that week the large hotels and restaurants will introduce reindeer meat on their menus under its correct title, not under the misnomer of venison. Executive headquarters have been established at New York.

State Projects An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 18 says: "With persistent efforts afoot to engage the State in hydro-electrics, housing, bridging, tunneling and what not, it has likewise been represented that the financing of such projects through 'instrumentalities of the State' is both easy and safe. The idea is held forth that hundreds of millions, if not billions, of capital can be borrowed, at interest rates much lower than are possible to private corporations, without involving the credit of the State. An attractive analogy is set up between such operations and those of the Federal and joint stock land banks. Any such comparison is subject to so many qualifications as to be dangerous and misleading, if not actually false. Operations of both classes of land banks are under the constant scrutiny of a staff headed by the Farm Loan Board, which as a whole is a Federal bureau wholly independent of the banks and their management. Within prescribed maxima, interest rates which the banks may charge borrowers are determined by prevailing money and investment conditions. That is, they get the going market price of such service. Their individual loans must be comparatively small and the institutions must have at all times a capital and surplus in a definite ratio to their outstanding liabilities....Proposals to put the State into any sort of business, therefore, must be considered in the light of the real basis of its ability to borrow money at a low rate."

Traffic Facilities Twenty dollars annually per capita on the entire population, or a total of more than $2,000,000,000 per annum, is the cost of inadequate traffic facilities in the United States, according to an estimate made by the committee on metropolitan traffic facilities of the national conference on street and highway safety in the report which it will submit to the next conference which has been called by Secretary of Commerce Hoover for March 23, 24 and 25. This annual burden includes an estimated economic loss in lives, personal injuries and destruction of property of $600,000,000 in traffic accidents. Among the chief sources of loss due to inadequate traffic facilities other than losses due to accidents, the committee cites congested thoroughfares, extra distances, inferior road surfaces and heavy grades, railroad and main traveled highway grade

crossings, drawbridges, insufficient traffic police and inadequacy or absence of signal systems, poor signs and badly marked detours, prevention of access to places of business, dormant real estate values and the toleration of vehicles unsuited to local conditions. (Press Statement, Dept. of Com., Mar. 19.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 18: Potatoes steady in Chicago; 10 to 25¢ higher elsewhere. New York sacked Round Whites $4.40 to $4.50 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $4.25 to $4.35 f.o.b. Rochester. New York Baldwin apples fairly steady at $3 to $3.50 per barrel in eastern cities; $3.50 to $4 in Chicago and $3 to $3.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed cabbage declined 50¢ in New York City to $1.75 to $2 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper; slightly weaker elsewhere at $2 to $2.25. New York yellow varieties of onions ranged $2.25 to $3 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $2.75 to $3 f.o.b. Rochester.

Chicago hog prices closed at $13.75 for the top, bulk of sales $11.30 to $13.30. Beef steers choice $10.25 to $11.15; heifers, good and choice, $7.25 to $10.50; cows, good and choice, $6.75 to $8.25; canner and cutter $3.75 to $4.75; vealers, $9.75 to $12.75; heavy calves $6 to $7.75; stocker and feeder steers $6.75 to $9.25; fat lambs medium to choice $12.50 to $14.35; yearling wethers, medium to choice, $9 to $12; fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9; feeding lambs, medium to choice $12.50 to $14.50.

Grain prices quoted March 18: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.62 to $1.76. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.77; Kansas City $1.72 1/2. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.71; Kansas City $1.66 to $1.70. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 66¢; Kansas City 68¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 70 1/2¢; St.Louis 71 1/2¢; Kansas City 69 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 71 1/2¢; Kansas City 68 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Minneapolis 37¢; St.Louis 41 1/2¢; Kansas City 41¢.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 42¢; Philadelphia 42 1/2¢; Boston 42 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets unchanged at 18.27¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 2 points, closing at 18.65¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Mar. 18,	Mar. 17,	Mar. 18,1925
20 Industrials	146.32	149.28	118.25
20 R.R. stocks	106.78	107.91	96.46

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 19.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 66 Section 1 March 20, 1926.

COOPERATIVE MARKETING BILL — The hearings on the cooperative marketing bill were closed by the Senate agricultural committee yesterday and the measure will be voted upon on Monday, according to the press to-day.

TINCHER ASSAILS RELIEF MEASURE — During consideration of farm relief legislation, Representative Tincher yesterday assailed the measure proposed by the Des Moines farm delegation. (Press, Mar. 20.)

CORN BUYS FARM MACHINERY — A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "Approximately $1,000,000 worth of farm machinery has been sold to farmers of the Corn Belt by the International Harvester Company since January 8 as the result of that corporation's offer to take corn in payment for purchase on the basis of $1 worth of machinery for each bushel of corn. Although not official, this figure is understood to be conservative, as reports from agents through the rural sections for the last few days have yet to be added to figures now in the hands of officials of the corporation. Potential buying is represented in the amount of corn thus far used in the rehabilitation of farm equipment, according to Alexander Legge, president of the corporation, and yet only a small percentage of farmers have availed themselves of the opportunity to turn 71 1/2 cents-a-bushel corn into dollar machinery....."

REINDEER MEAT ON SALE — A Rochester, N.Y., dispatch to the press to-day states that reindeer meat will go on sale Monday in a local meat market, butchers announced yesterday. The supply is obtained from northern herds, but it was predicted the meat would not offer great competition to staple varieties, since it is to sell at from 60 cents to $1 per pound.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS — Dun's Review to-day says: "The main aspects of the general business situation continue favorable, though its irregularities have recently become somewhat more marked. Reports now disclose rather sharper contrasts, expansion being the rule in some quarters, but contraction appearing in certain other directions. Current news from the great steel trade, upon whose prosperity so much depends, is distinctly encouraging, with promise of a new high record in output at different mills and yet with no sign thus far of the over-production that was evident a year ago. This is a strong and reassuring phase, for it indicates a sustained large consumption of material by some other important industries, and their commitments are almost entirely for actual needs."

Section 2

Agricultural Credit

Reductions in direct loans of all classes, with the exception of those based on cotton, coffee, rice, and raisins, were effected by the Federal intermediate credit banks during January. Direct loans, being based on warehoused products, are being liquidated gradually as the marketing season progresses. Last season cotton loans reached their high point of $13,939,000 in the week of January 24, but due to unfavorable weather at picking time, marketing has been delayed and accommodations are still on the increase, the total for February 20, 1926, amounting to $25,613,000. The financing of the Porto Rican coffee crop is under way and loans are increasing at the Baltimore bank, which handles this territory. There was no change in the amount loaned on raisins during January. The total amount of direct loans on February 20, 1926, amounted to $50,937,000. Total rediscounts for the 12 Federal intermediate credit banks showed a seasonal increase, going up from $26,408,000 on January 2, 1926, to $28,565,000 on February 20. This increase is accounted for almost entirely by the rise in the accommodations extended to livestock loan companies. Loans of the latter class have shown an almost continual increase during the last year, the Houston district being the largest contributor, with $4,640,000 of such livestock paper. (Fed. Res. Bul.)March .)

British Agricultural Education

In an editorial review of the Year Book of the National Farmers' Union for 1926, The Scottish Farmer for March 6 says: "There is a sound note in the Union's declarations on research and education. It looks upon the primary school, the secondary school, the farm institute, the agricultural college, and the university as component parts of the scheme of agricultural education. It calls for the elimination of the urban bias from the rural school curricula; the said curricula should be based on the environment of the children, and be framed in a manner calculated to educate the special capacities of the different types of children. The Union calls for the fuller development of farm institutes, which should be maintained on practical lines, and is insistent on the coordination of the work of all of the agencies named."

California Fruit Marketing

An editorial in The Blue Anchor (Sacramento) for March says: "It has become increasingly apparent, with the volume of deciduous fruit shipments now moving from California, that the organization which makes a special intensive effort to study the demands of the trade and the preferences of the markets, will secure the business, while those shippers who are only interested in pursuing the old methods which have been in vogue for the last 20 years are bound to be eliminated in the competition. Every fruit man from California who has visited the East during the last three years has returned with the same message, namely: that only quality packs will continue to secure the attention of the buyers who are sustaining the market, and that mediocre fruit will suffer when compared with the better article. The California Fruit Exchange has been one of the first organizations to grasp this essential point and to put its conclusions in tangible form through the selection of a well qualified representative, who will be located on the eastern markets through the shipping season for the purpose of studying in detail the condition of the fruit upon arrival and reporting promptly to associations and growers just what is found, together with suggestions for improvement. It is the hope that, as the season approaches, one man will be appointed to devote his time exclusively to tree fruit, while another will be engaged solely in the grape deal."

Flour Mill Merger

A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of March 18 states that B. B. Scheffield, president of the Commander Mill Company of Minneapolis, with a group of associates, took over the Larabee Flour Mills Corporation of Kansas City, which operates six flour mills in Missouri and Kansas. The consolidation is regarded as the largest in recent years in the American milling industry and gives the Scheffield interests control of mills with an aggregate capacity of 26,000 barrels a day.

Food Shortage Prediction

An editorial in The Philadelphia Ledger for March 19 says: "A food shortage is predicted by Dr. Samuel Prescott, biologist of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but he gives us until some time in the next century to prepare for it. And if we learn to use synthetic products and develop fresh sources of supply, South and North, we may be able to dodge the crisis. Doctor Prescott sees in the tropics vast potential grazing grounds for cattle, as yet undeveloped. He points to the Far North as the natural and congenial habitat for immense herds of reindeer. Along with the intensive production of meat and vegetables, we shall have improved processes of storage. It is clear that Doctor Prescott is not the ordinary type of alarmist who merely predicts doom and disaster without indicating the way out."

India's Agriculture

"India possesses 200,000,000 acres under cultivation. She utilizes 30,000,000 ploughs, almost all of wood. Her wells number 2,500,000, the majority served by bovine cattle or human labor. The bovine cattle of the country number some 150,000,000, of which some 25,000,000, even under existing conditions, are redundant and represent an annual waste of 100,000,000 pounds per annum. The light imported metal plough, oil engines for pumping, water lifting, oil and seed crushing, and the spread of tube well borings would add incalculably to the output of the soil and the standards of comfort and leisure of the vast agricultural mass of the Indian consumers. In 1923-24 India imported 2,920 oil engines, and in 1924-25 3,670 such engines, to the value of 600,000 pounds in each year. It is calculated that India could absorb not less than 500,000 small engines for water lifting, and possibly 150,000 larger ones for other purposes. The light imported plough is spreading, but it is estimated that, given standardization and popularization, the demand could be raised annually to between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000. Does the machinery exist whereby the demand for these improvements could be popularized and financed? The answer is: Yes, granted reasonable development of the Agricultural Department created by Lord Curzon and its coordination with the equally beneficent medium for agricultural progress created by the same master hand, namely, the cooperative societies, now numbering some 30,000 and utilizing a capital exceeding 5,000,000 pounds. It is, I believe, true that the total sum spent annually on the Indian Agricultural Departments, both Imperial and Provincial, falls far short of 1,000,000 pounds, while the great and once promising cooperative movement has all but stopped short at the elementary point represented by the initial creation of primary credit societies. The Royal Commission of Agriculture may give a fillip to the languishing efforts of Indian administrators in both these spheres. Its report, however, will be long delayed, and in any case it can add little, if anything, to the information on these points which exists in embarrassing confusion in the public departments and their prolific and efficient literature." (George Pilcher, M.P., in The Nineteenth Century and After, March.)

Lobdell on Farm Credit

The Philadelphia Ledger for March 19 says: "Federal Land and Intermediate Credit banks, established by Congress in 1916 and 1923, to aid the American farmer to finance his business, apparently have come to stay and should prove a growing factor in agricultural financing, according to Judge Charles E. Lobdell, fiscal agent and counsel for the banks, who spoke at the Chamber of Commerce members' luncheon at Philadelphia, March 18. Discussing the subject of 'Agricultural Credit in Relation to America's Welfare,' the speaker held that it is probably too early to forecast the ultimate development of these institutions, but prophesied that they are soon to become the largest lending organization in the world.... 'The American farmer,' Judge Lobdell said, 'is against special privilege for anybody else and doesn't ask it for himself, notwithstanding the extreme demands that are sometimes made in his name. He wants only a square deal. He wants to be taken into account when changing conditions force economic readjustments. He wants his long day of toil to buy as much, as least, as the shorter day of the industrial laborer--and to these he is fairly entitled. Given these, he will toil and struggle and win, and in addition to providing the Nation's food supply, he will continue in the future, as he has been in the past, the unshakable cornerstone in the structure of our constitutional Government.'...."

Production

The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in selected basic industries was bout 1 per cent lower in January than in December. The output of iron and steel, copper, and zinc increased, while activity in the woolen and petroleum industries declined, and mill consumption of cotton, the cut of lumber, and bituminous coal production increased less than is usual at this season of the year. Automobile production, not included in the index, was slightly smaller than in December, but considerably larger than in January, 1925. Factory employment changed but little in January, but the earnings of workers decreased considerably, owing to the closing of plants in most industries at the opening of the year for inventory taking and repairs. The volume of building contracts awarded in January, although seasonally less than in December, exceeded that of any previous January on record. Contracts awarded were particularly large in the New York and Atlanta districts. (Fed. Res. Bul. March.)

Taxes and Forests

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 19 says: "Here is a hypothetical case well worth study. A State legislature places a tax on all cattle, sheep and hogs kept for breeding. The tax is so heavy that the farmers are obliged to slaughter their stud animals. They cease producing in order to escape financial ruin. What will be the effect upon the future meat supply? This question is not fantastic; it finds an almost exact parallel in our timber supply situation. Commenting on an editorial published in these columns March 13, a reader says: 'Your brief remarks concerning the timber situation and taxation are so much to the point that I trust you will see fit to give this question further attention. The writer has been connected in the past with timber properties in the Northwest. If the States of Washington and Oregon would not tax standing timber, but place the tax on the log, you would immediately stop the wholesale slaughter of standing timber and many owners would stop logging. They are now cutting to meet taxes and to keep the timber from ruining them with taxes. As it now is, there is hardly an incentive for any one to make timber investments.' Without going into a discussion of the tax systems of any State, it may be said that this reader places a finger upon a sore spot. The whole Nation would cry out if the farmers of Texas were obliged to slaughter all the breeding cows in order to

escape ruin by taxation on cattle. What would be said if the farmers of Iowa and other Corn-Belt States were obliged to cease from producing pigs on account of the heavy taxes? We would stand aghast at such a short-sighted use of the taxing power. Verily, the power to tax is the power to destroy. But no further revenue comes after the power is exercised to that limit. A farmer may shear a sheep season after season and get a reasonable revenue therefrom. He can skin it but once. The self-interest of the States should prompt them to develop the forests, which would mean a constant source of revenue. To compel the owners to denude the forests to meet the taxes is like skinning the wool-bearing sheep. Give nature an opportunity, and she will do her generous part toward reafforestation and her work can be greatly stimulated by the help of man. But adequate opportunity will not be given nature, nor man's help extended to the necessary degree, if it means only loss to the owners of the land. Wooden-headed ideas mean extinction of our remaining lumber supply and the ultimate destruction of our watersheds."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 19: Potatoes, New York sacked Round Whites $4.40 to $4.60 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $4.25 to $4.35 f.o.b. Rochester. Northern stock $3.90 to $4 carlot sales in Chicago; $3.75 to $4 f.o.b. Florida Spaulding Rose $16 per barrel in Baltimore. Delaware and Maryland yellow sweet potatoes closed at $2.65 to $3 per bushel hamper in the East. New York Baldwin apples firm at $3.25 to $4 per barrel in eastern markets; $3 to $3.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Texas domestic type cabbage $10 to $20 higher at $85 to $100 bulk per ton in consuming centers; $50 to $65 f.o.b. Florida pointed type firm at $2.25 to $2.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper.

Chicago hog prices closed at $14 for the top, bulk of sales $11.40 to $13.20; beef steers choice $10.25 to $11.15; heifers, good and choice $7.50 to $10.50; cows, good and choice, $6.85 to $8.85; canner and cutter, $3.85 to $4.85; vealers, medium to choice $10 to $13; heavy calves, medium to choice, $6 to $7.75; stocker and feeder steers $6.75 to $9.25; fat lambs $12.25 to $14.25; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9 to $12; fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9; feeding lambs, medium to choice, $12.50 to $14.50.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 41 1/2¢; Boston 42¢; Philadelphia 42¢.

Grain prices quoted March 19: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.57 to $1.71. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.83; Kansas City $1.72. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.72 1/2; St.Louis $1.65 1/2; Kansas City $1.66. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 62 1/2¢; Kansas City 67¢; No.4 mixed corn Chicago 66 1/2 to 67 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 73 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 65 to 68¢; St.Louis 71¢; Kansas City 69¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 71¢; Kansas City 67 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 40 1/2¢; Minneapolis 35 3/4¢; St. Louis 41¢; Kansas City 41¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 17 points, during the week, closing at 18.35¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 17 points, closing at 18.72¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Mar. 19,	Mar. 18,	Mar.19,1925
	20 Industrials	145.11	146.32	119.38
	20 R.R. stocks	106.29	106.78	96.68

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 20.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 67 Section 1 March 22, 1926.

FARM RELIEF HEARINGS The House agricultural committee to-day will enter upon its third week of hearings on farm relief legislation, and with no prospect of an early conclusion. The delegation representing middle western and national farm organizations will continue presentation of its case for a bill to finance surplus crops by an equalization fee, with F.W.Murphy of the American Council of Agriculture, under examination. The Senate agricultural committee, March 20 decided to invite Governor Hammill of Iowa to return to Washington for cross-examination on farm relief legislation. (Press, Mar. 21.)

GRAZING BILL A new bill to regulate grazing in national forests was approved March 20 by Secretary Jardine, Secretary Work, and Chairman Stanfield of the Senate public lands committee, according to the press of March 21.

FARM FORECLOSURES A St.Paul dispatch to the press to-day states that the St.Paul Federal Land Bank announces that all farms in Minnesota and North Dakota acquired under foreclosure during the last few years have been sold. The St.Paul Bank has lent $118,000,000 to northwest farmers since it was organized a few years ago.

ALIEN FARM LABOR Between July 1, 1925, and January 31, 1926, a total of 15,378 unskilled laborers entered this country and 24,175 left the country, according to an analysis made public March 21 by the National Industrial Conference Board, New York. This was a net loss of 8,797. During the corresponding seven months of the preceding year the net loss was 21,245. A slight net gain in alien skilled labor was shown by the immigration and emigration figures, according to the board. There also was a slight net gain in farm laborers.

MEAT CONSUMPTION A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "The average consumption of meat in the United States was greater in 1925 than in any year since Federal meat inspection was instituted in 1907, says the report of the National Live Stock and Meat board. The use of pork declined from past years, probably due to higher prices incident to the 20 per cent decrease in hog receipts at central markets; but veal, beef and mutton all increased. The average person in the United States last year consumed 154.3 pounds of meat, the report shows. This was 4 pounds greater than the average consumption for the last eighteen years."

CATTLE DUTY A St.Paul dispatch to the press to-day says: "Livestock interests here are watching closely the renewed efforts of Canada cattlemen to have the United States import duty on cattle removed. The South St.Paul stockyards are the largest market in the country for Canadian cattle, but since the import duty was imposed in 1922 receipts there have greatly diminished".

Section 2

Arboretum Legislation

An editorial in The Florists Exchange for March 20 says: "Responding, presumably, to President Coolidge's urgent calls for economy, the committee of the House of Representatives reported unfavorably on the bill which seeks to authorize and establish a national arboretum at Washington. But a few days later, the Senate committee, which supposedly is equally well acquainted with the President's wishes, votes not only to approve the bill, but also to increase the appropriation it carries from $300,000 to $500,000! However, this committee takes a whack at it in another spot by striking out the provision that the arboretum shall be planned, established and maintained by the Secretary of Agriculture with the cooperation and advice of representatives of nationally important horticultural bodies, such as the Garden Club of America and the American Association of Nurserymen. As this counsel system would cost the Government nothing, but, on the other hand, would put at its disposal practical and professional advice of no inconsiderable value, the amendment can not be prompted by motives of economy. What then, was its objective? A national arboretum, to be worthy of its field and scope, should be worked out and carried on according to the ideas of those who know the horticultural situation and its needs, as well as the requirements of service and research. Governmental control and operation of activities primarily of practical service to the public do not always seem to meet with approval; it would be a great pity if a proposition marked as is this of the national arboretum, by so much that is admirable, were to lose prestige and interest for the public as a result of being taken out of their hands and the hands of their well-equipped representatives."

British Ministry of Agriculture Cost

An editorial in The Scottish Farmer for March 6 says: "According to a non-official article in the National Farmers' Union Year-Book for 1926, the cost of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the current year (agricultural side only) is 3,275,000 pounds gross. Of this sum one million goes to the sugar beet subsidy, 875,000 pounds is spent on land settlement, and 650,000 pounds on agricultural education and research. The balance of 750,000 pounds goes to maintain the staff of the Ministry in all their activities. The writer of the article is satisfied that the sugar beet subsidy is well-spent money, and that the crop will pay the producer. The land settlement expenditure also commends itself to him, albeit the whole amount specified represents the loss that has been sustained in the process off settling ex-service men on the land in England and Wales... A more exhaustive examination is made of the expenditure of 650,000 pounds on education and research. Of this total 340,000 pounds is expended on education, and 310,000 pounds on research. Of the former, 50,000 pounds goes to the university departments and the agricultural colleges. The Ministry repays to county councils two-thirds of the money they spend on agricultural education. This repayment during the current year was estimated to cost 225,000 pounds, and of this not less than 45,000 pounds was capital expenditure on farm institutes. Thirteen of these are now in operation in England and Wales. The Ministry also provides scholarships for the sons and daughters of agricultural workmen. The research expenditure is in big sums. The 310,000 pounds is nearly all absorbed in four departments. The stations and institutes absorb 170,000 pounds; 55,000 pounds goes to assist in the erection of buildings, laboratories, etc.; 51,000 pounds in payment of specialists and advisory officers; and 16,000 pounds is set apart for the work of the special committee which is dealing with the foot-and-mouth disease. The balance remaining out of the 310,000 pounds goes to meet certain items connected with veterinary research and

the provision of research scholarships designed to provide recruits for the staffs of research institutes. There still remains the sum of three-quarters of a million, which may be roughly divided into two figures of 475,000 pounds for the staff of the Ministry and its expenses, and 275,000 pounds for a variety of miscellaneous items. To this latter category belong 32,600 pounds for statistics, 39,000 pounds for swine fever eradication, 50,000 pounds for livestock improvement, 50,000 pounds for loans to agricultural cooperative societies, if required, and 30,000 pounds for the expenses of the Agricultural Wages Act. The other figure, of 475,000 pounds, is admitted to be a large one. The details here are too numerous for recital; one of the heaviest is connected with the livestock department and the fight against foot-and-mouth disease...."

Canadian Pulp Exports

An Ottawa dispatch to the press March 20 states that exports of pulp from Canada are on the increase, while exports of pulp wood are decreasing. A statement of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows that wood pulp to the value of $4,123,171 was exported last February, an increase of about $600,000 over February, 1925. In the twelve months ended February, 1926, wood pulp worth $19,693,043 went out of Canada, an increase of $3,500,000 over the corresponding previous twelve months. Pulp wood exports in February, 1926, were valued at $1,108,078, compared with $1,440,860 in February, 1925. In the twelve months' periods ended February, 1926, and 1925, pulp wood exports were, respectively, $13,591,-669 and $14,126,108. News print exports also are increasing. In the twelve months ended February, 1926, the value of these exports was $100,995,135. In the previous corresponding twelve months the exports were $91,347,882.

European Economic Conferences

Robert S. Brookings, president of the Institute of Economics, is the author of an article on European Economic Conferences, in the press of March 20. In this the author says: "The most important feature of the Locarno pact, in my opinion, is the proposal for an economic conference of the nations to be held in October, 1926. It indicates that the European nations composing the League appreciate the necessity, if not of a wide-reaching economic entente, at least of the removal of many artificial barriers that now impede economic intercourse. These barriers are the result, in great measure, of a distorted spirit of nationalism that had dominated the policy and practice of most European nations. Since the Locarno meeting, a Pan-European Economic Conference has been called for October 4, to be held at Vienna. This is a non-political conference to be attended by committees of representative men from nations on both sides of the water. The commercial restrictions and high tariffs maintained by the old nations and adopted by the new ones are keeping producers in perilous dependence on their home markets, for these markets are too small to absorb enough of their output to keep labor and capital effectively employed. This has lessened their production per capita and has accentuated their economic poverty. The extension of this practice has deprived Great Britain of a large part of her Continental market. It also tends to make her own unprotected market a dumping ground for the products of Continental countries which they can not exchange among themselves. As a result Great Britain has been forced to give serious consideration to the feasibility of adopting similar trade restrictions as a measure of self-defense....Whatever prosperity has accompanied the maintenance of a high tariff in our own country has been made possible by the enormous size of the home market, our unsurpassed abundance and variety of

natural resources, our genius for organization, our wide adoption of division of labor and labor-saving devices, and our comparatively equitable distribution of the national output through high wages. To apply our tariff in the nations of Europe who have not these other advantages that we enjoy is to sacrifice economic welfare in order to gratify a dangerously narrow nationalistic spirit. A study of continental European economic conditions shows that nothing less than an economic entente, which would extend the limits of their markets and diversify their resources and their facilities, will enable them even approximately to follow our example....It is to be hoped that, if invited to participate in the proposed conferences, we shall accept the invitation. We should participate not with any view, of course, to becoming a party to such an economic entente as Europe needs, but in order to counteract the mistaken interpretation given to our own policy and to aid in promoting the general economic welfare of all nations."

Flower Shows An editorial in The Florists Exchange for March 20 says: "While pondering over what comment to make on flower shows in general, and the 13th International Flower Show, now under way, in particular, we came upon an editorial in The New York World of March 15. In it, we believe, is contained not only all the comment needed, but also a message for the trade. The World says: 'Curious reflections are provoked by this flower show which is being held in Grand Central Palace. It is not the only one of its kind: it will be followed by thousands of others, all over the United States; funny little exhibitions in the front rooms of town fire-engine houses; in the summer, exhibitions at the county fairs, the results of which will be announced in the weekly newspapers; in the fall, that unique spectacle, the chrysanthemum show, with its riot of color and pungent smell. But the exhibitions tell only a small part of the story. Contestants in them are champion growers, experts. Beside them are the real rank and file of flower-lovers, the people who make modest little gardens and never think of placing their plants on display. Whether we realize it or not, flowers are a national passion with us. What is to be deduced from the fact? We are often accused of being an unaesthetic people, and certainly in some respects we are. It is possible to motor for miles in many parts of the country without seeing indication of even an embryo sense of beauty. Yet in the bleak village, where it seems that the ugliness of corrugated iron and mustard-colored houses has reached its ultimate limit, one sees a woman with a water-pot, carefully nursing a rose bush. True enough, our people do not weave rugs, or make up beautiful songs, or do any of the things that other nations have done to satisfy the impulse to beauty. But here is this love for flowers, and one feels, somehow, that the significance of it has been overlooked. Perhaps examination of it might disclose a national aesthetic sense that is far more creditable than had at first been supposed.' So much for the significance of the flower show as it strikes the lay mind. As to the message for us of the trade, what more could we ask than the reminder that the love of flowers, is, indeed, a national, a universal attribute and passion of mankind; the reminder that it is our privilege and honored duty to see that this passion is fostered and increasingly engendered, and, to see that the flowers and plants with which it may be satisfied shall be kept ever available for all?"

Rubber Release Expected An Associated Press dispatch from London March 19 says: "Colonial Secretary Amery stated in the House of Commons March 18 that he was closely watching the rubber situation and hoped to be able to make a public

notification, possibly in about a fortnight, regarding the release of crude rubber under the Stevenson restriction scheme. His declaration was made in answer to a question regarding the intentions of the Colonial Office in the matter. Eric Miller, former chairman of the British Rubber Growers' Association and a number of the committee that formulated the Stevenson plan, told the guests at an American Chamber of Commerce luncheon that he considered Secretary Hoover's efforts to rouse the interests of Americans in the importance of the rubber industry entirely proper. He differed with Mr. Hoover only over details, such as the attention which the Secretary gave to the speculative phase of the industry. 'It is amazing,' he said, 'that the United States, which consumes two-thirds of the world's rubber production, is represented by only 2½ per cent of the capital invested in the industry. This fact alone shows what faith and confidence the Americans must have had in the British methods.' He reiterated the British contention that the Stevenson plan benefited every user of rubber in the world, as it saved the plantations from ruin."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 20: Cattle receipts for seven large markets for the week were around 20,000 more than a week ago and a year ago, calf receipts were about 3,000 more than a week ago but about 1,000 less than the same period last year; hog receipts were about 40,000 heavier than a week ago but slightly less compared with a year ago and sheep receipts showed a gain of about 20,000 over each period. Compared with a week ago steers weighing 1,200 lbs. and over were mostly 50¢ lower, yearlings about steady with the price spread the narrowest of the year, weighty steers were the lowest since January 1925; stockers and feeders 25 to 50¢ lower; she stock strong to 25¢ higher; vealers were around $1 lower.

Butter markets during the week were on a weak unsettled basis and prices declined about 2 cents. Supplies were heavy and there were some accumulations particularly of the finer grades. Cheese markets indicated further weakness and prices at the cheese boards meeting at Plymouth, Wisconsin, on March 19 were 3/4 to 1 1/4 cents lower on all styles. Distributing markets were quiet and featureless except for a reflection of the weakness of primary centers.

Hay market steady to firm on top grades but ordinary grades quiet. Offerings of desirable grades readily absorbed at most markets. Demand only moderately active. Timothy steady. Feed market has developed slightly firmer tone for wheat and high protein feeds, but corn feeds lower. Production of wheatfeeds restricted by small flour sales. Demand more active, particularly from consuming trade in mixed car orders. Storage stocks in central western markets preventing material price advances.

Grain market sharply lower. Wheat futures down 5-8 cents in sympathy with lower prices in world markets account slow demand for flour and unsettled European political conditions. Cash wheat lower with futures. May buyers out of the market. Corn futures at new low level for crop, around four cents lower than week ago. Demand slack with some holding off. Oats lower with wheat and corn.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 16 points during the week. New York May future contracts declined 11 points. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Mar. 20,	Mar. 19,	Mar. 20, 1925
20 Industrials	144.80	145.11	120.91
20 R.R. stocks	106.78	106.29	87.81

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 22.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 68 Section 1 March 23, 1926.

CORN SUGAR Urging legislation authorizing the use of corn sugar in the canning industry without specific labels, Representative Cole yesterday argued this would encourage consumption of much of the corn surplus crop. (Press, Mar. 23.)

MUSCLE SHOALS OFFER Terms of a proposed bid for operation of Muscle Shoals by a private corporation under Government supervision were discussed yesterday by Frederick T. Hepburn, president of Wallbridge & Co., investment bankers, New York, with the joint congressional committee conducting negotiations to lease the property. Under the terms of his bid the corporation would pay an annual rental of $2,000,000 after the first year for a lease for fifty years on the entire property. During the first year it would pay ten per cent of income received from the sale of power. Operations would be divided between fertilizer and chemical production and power distribution. (Press, Mar. 23.)

BRITAIN BARS ARGENTINE CATTLE A London dispatch to the press to-day states that Walter Guinness, Minister of Agriculture, stated in the House of Commons yesterday that the importation of live cattle from Argentina could not be conducted without the risk of bringing in disease and that, under the Disease of Animals Act, he was unable to allow the entry of such cattle. The question was brought up by Commander J. M. Kenworthy, Liberal, who said that slaughter houses are being established at Zeebrugge, Belgium, for the slaughter of Argentine cattle for the English market. Mr. Guinness replied that this situation was causing him grave concern. Argentina has at present a great deal of foot and mouth disease, he said.

PRICES A New Haven dispatch to the press of March 22 states that Prof. Irving Fisher's index number of American commodity prices for last week, based on 100 as the average of 1913, is 153.6, comparing with 153.3 a week ago, 154 two weeks ago and 155.5 three weeks ago. The average of a week ago is the lowest for the year to date, and is also lower than any reached in 1925; the highest this year was 159.7 on Jan. 30. The highest weekly average reached in 1925 was 164.4, on Jan. 1, which was also higher than any reached in 1924; the lowest was 154.1, on May 2. The highest percentage since the war was 247, in May, 1920; the lowest, 130 in January, 1922.

GRAIN EXPORTS Exports of grain from the United States during the week ending March 20 totaled 1,122,000 bushels, as against 715,000 the week before Figures issued yesterday by the Commerce Department gave the following detailed comparisons: Barley, 111,000 bushels, against 41,000; corn, 276,000, against 321,000; oats, 15,000, against 17,000; rye, none, against none; wheat, 720,000, against 336,000.

Section 2

Butter Industry

An editorial in Chicago Dairy Produce for March 16 says: "The butter industry returns the farmer more of the price paid for butter by consumers than any other product he markets, according to the National Dairy Council. During the past year the farmer has received from 78 to 80 cents out of every consumer's butter dollar, while he averaged only 45 cents from meat, potatoes and wheat, three other staples of life. In addition to this, he has been paid a daily cash return on his investment and labor, and his cows have supplied fertilizer necessary to maintain the productiveness of his land."

Butter Tariff

An editorial in The Farmer (St.Paul) for March 13 says: "Exercising his power under the flexible provision of the tariff act, President Coolidge on Saturday last issued a proclamation raising the import tariff on butter from eight to twelve cents per pound. The new duty will become effective thirty days from the date of the proclamation....Without entering into a detailed discussion of the ins and outs of a long bitter fight which reflects great credit on the cooperative organizations involved, suffice it to say that without the cooperative organization of producers this fight could not have been won, all of which adds force to the old argument of The Farmer that the salvation of agriculture depends upon its organization....What does this increase in the butter tariff mean? First, it means additional domestic markets for our butter which were being displaced by foreign butter. Second, it means a better price stability due to the difficulty of foreign importations temporarily swamping our port markets. It is too early to measure in dollars and cents just what this will mean to Minnesota producers, but it is safe to say that during this year it will mean several million dollars. There is a possibility that prices may be unsettled during the next thirty days when foreign countries may attempt to flood the American market before the provisions of the higher tariff become effective. The full effect of the higher tariff will probably not be felt until about next fall."

European Economic Conferences

An editorial in The New York Times for March 20, discussing the article by Robert S. Brookings on European economic conferences,(excerpts from which were published in Daily Digest for March 22) says: "Even our most purblind and determined isolationists admit that the United States has a great and continuous economic interest in Europe. Whether we keep aloof politically or not, we can not stand apart in industry and commerce. The demonstration of this truth is now complete. If any one doubts it, he should read the article by Mr. Robert S. Brookings. As he points out, all the indications are that the European nations are about to study and improve their trade relations. The result may not be immediately a customs union, but it is certain to lead to a great quickening of manufacture and international exchange of goods. To such consequences the United States can not remain indifferent. It is not that we are threatened with the loss of a profitable market, but that it is our business to discover how to retain and enlarge it. A restored and prosperous Europe means a greater purchasing power there. The question is whether we shall be prepared not only to supply our customers abroad with what they need, but to allow them to pay us in the only way possible--that is, by selling to us in order to meet their bills for what they buy from us. This will inevitably imply a modification of our tariff laws. If it be said that this is impossible, that is only another way of saying that we are not ready to do what we must do if we are going to retain and extend our foreign trade."

Farm Increase An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for March 20 says: "When noting the increase in the number of farms in the Northeastern States it should be borne in mind that a different basis for counting was used in the 1925 census than was used in the census of 1920. Last year all tracts containing three acres, and on which $250 worth of products were raised were listed as farms. The number of such places has been increasing rapidly during the past five years. The desire to get out of the congested cities has been met by the automobile and the building of good roads, so that thousands now live on little 'farms,' raise some fruit, poultry and vegetables and travel back and forth to work in the cities. In the strict sense of the word no increase in the number of farms has occurred, but the listing of the small home tracts as such has made an apparent increase."

Farm Relief Legislation An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 22 says: "Of the making of farm 'relief' bills, with suggestions for more bills, there seems to be no end. The absurd provisions in some show they are not the product of men conversant with farm conditions, while their very multiplicity is proof that there is no agreement as to what is wanted. From this it is a logical inference that not many real farmers are asking legislation....Iowa has been the storm center of the so-called corn crisis; but in the news columns of this paper there was a resume of the financial situation in which the correspondent in Des Moines gives the names of the banks and the bankers quoted; their statements of conditions were a flat contradiction of the propaganda implying that Iowa is almost bankrupt. One authority shows that the corn crop of Iowa this year will sell for over $400,000,000, or $124,000,000 more than it brought last year. From the Corn Belt Dailies, under the heading, 'Agitation for Farm Relief,' the following is taken: 'It may be wondered why there is such an insistent demand for farm legislation. There are two reasons: One is that the man who sells corn has been having a hard time this winter. His corn is poor in quality and the price low. While only a fifth of the corn is consumed off the farm, more than a fifth of the producers are hard hit, because many sell their corn to other producers who feed livestock. Another reason for the agitation is that it is fomented by men who have a selfish interest of one kind or another at stake. They may be adventurers, hoping for a good position in a surplus handling body authorized by Congress; they may be farm organization leaders, committed to a relief program by sentiment among their membership which they can not combat; they may be politicians seeking votes. Most of those whose knowledge of agricultural conditions is gleaned from the city newspapers probably have a misconception of the true state of affairs. They are likely to have concluded that farm people are pretty much a unit in demanding governmental relief, and that the reason for this must be quite general farm distress. But they see only the froth. Back of it is a great body of hard-headed farmers who are going on about their business, knowing that they must work out their own problems.' These confusions of counsel, with no apparent agreement on anything whatever, would indicate that 'Corn Belt Dailies' accurately described the situation."

Game Refuge Bill An editorial in Field and Stream for April says: "Federal control of migratory birds is as settled a national policy as the Monroe Doctrine. It is the supreme law of the land, fixed by international treaty, Federal statute and Supreme Court decision. Discussion of this question in connection with the pending Federal Migratory Bird Refuge bill is idle

persiflage. The United States by solemn treaty has assumed certain obligations mutually with Canada for the care and perpetuation of all species of valuable migratory birds, including waterfowl. That the United States should meet its obligation, both legal and moral, to the fullest extent is obvious. This obligation has been partially met by the enactment of the migratory bird treaty act, which provides for fixing seasons for shooting, bag limits, non-sale regulations and other provisions concerned directly with the administration of the bird life as an international asset, but only goes half the way necessary to insure complete and permanent preservation. Insurance of adequate facilities for breeding and food supply, a fundamental necessity, remains yet to be accomplished. For four years the far-seeing men of the country have been trying to induce Congress to establish a system of sanctuaries for waterfowl to serve as permanent summer nesting grounds for them in the North, winter feeding areas in the South and resting places along their lines of flight, also to insure to the American sportsmen something like equal opportunity for participating in the sport of shooting and to prevent monopoly of shooting privileges in this country. It would not seem necessary to repeat at length the arguments for such a course of action....All this has been discussed at length in the public press, and is generally understood, admitted and deplored; but there is a remedy which no one doubts would be effectual and which ought to be applied nationally and by the several States as rapidly as can possibly be done. It has been applied in some instances in the United States, and to a large extent in Canada, where breeding areas only are affected. As the entire waterfowl supply winters in the United States and farther south, the great responsibility of this country in this connection is apparent. Though efforts have been made for a number of years to secure Federal action to remedy this defect in our system of waterfowl conservation as a national enterprise, it has not yet been accomplished. Since the introduction and discussion of the first bill in Congress to establish Federal waterfowl refuges, the measure has passed each congressional body but not in the same Congress. The most thorough consideration has been had in committees, in debate, in the press and among the sportsmen and conservationists of the country. Every objection, valid or otherwise, has been met....Now is the time for action. The bill will become a law if voted upon at this session. The job of the sportsmen of America and all others who realize the situation is to see that the measure has its chance, is brought to a vote and passed."

Irish Agriculture

An editorial in The Irish Statesman for March 6 says: "For centuries Ireland has been like a small boat towed by a gigantic liner. Then with the Treaty the rope was cut and we have since been trying to acquire on our own account skill in political and economic navigation. That we are acquiring political skill is much more obvious than that we are acquiring economic skill. The statistics relating to livestock and tillage for last year show such an all-round decline in production that one can not look on them without apprehension. What is the cause of this decline? We have alongside us the greatest importer of foodstuffs in the world. There is no decline in the consuming power in our greatest, indeed, our only, market. Yet we seem to be squeezed out. Is it that the internal economic burden of rates and taxes are so heavy that our producers lose heart, economize in labor, revert from tillage to grazing to the very cheapest method of production which is also the method which produces least? No doubt this burden of rates and taxes has its share. But we must also ask ourselves whether we have technical competence equal to the demand of the market, whether our methods of production themselves are not

altogether behind the times. We have acquired the habit at the time when our country was a small boat towed in the wake of a great political liner of casting all the blame of our discomforts and deficiencies on the great political machine which towed us along, and even now that we are going on under our own engines this habit of seeking outside ourselves for scapegoats or succor still persists. Many blame others for their plight. Many, again, appeal to others for subsidies, for protection, for some kind of external aid. We believe that our agriculture has come to be what it is by a century of neglect, of belated reforms which came too often after the main damage was done, and while we are not disposed to condemn farmers for the defects in their technical and business education, caused by past neglect, they have to face the fact that they must, in future, be the saviors of their own industry and make much more determined efforts to raise themselves to the average technical competence of their rivals. ....It appears that only 10 per cent of the farmers in the district are members of a cow-testing association, while the average yield for the cows of the whole creamery district is given as 460 gallons. That average is, we believe, the national average but it is very low if we compare it with the average milk yields reported from other dairying countries..."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 22: Grain prices quoted: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.52-$1.65. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.66 1/2; Chicago $1.65 1/2. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.61. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 61¢; No.4 mixed corn Chicago 63 1/2-65 1/2¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 73 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 65-67¢; St.Louis 68 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 68¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39 1/2¢; Minneapolis 35 1/2¢; St.Louis 40 1/4¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 10 points, closing at 18.34¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 11 points, closing at 18.72¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 42 1/2¢; Chicago 40 1/2¢; Philadelphia 43¢; Boston 42 1/2¢.

Closing prices on Wisconsin primary cheese markets March 20: Twins 19¢; Single Daisies 19 3/4¢; Longhorns 20¢.

Northern sacked Round White potatoes $3.90-$4 per 100 pounds on the Chicago carlot market; $3.80-$3.95 f.o.b. New York stock about steady in eastern cities at $4.35-$4.50 at western New York shipping points $4.25-$4.35. Delaware sweet potatoes yellow varieties $2.50-$3 per bushel hamper in eastern cities. Tennessee Nancy Halls $2-$2.15 in Chicago. New York Baldwin apples $3.25-$4 per barrel in leading markets; $3-$3.25 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage $2.25-$2.75 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in city wholesale markets.

Chicago livestock quotations as of March 22: Hogs, top $13.75, bulk of sales $11.30 to $13. Beef steers choice $10.35 to $11.25, good $9.60 to $10.75, medium $8.75 to $9.85, common $7.50 to $8.85. Heifers, good to choice, $7.50 to $10.50, common and medium $6. to $8.75. Cows good and choice, $6.85 to $8.25, common and medium $4.85 to $6.85, canner and cutter $3.85 to $4.85. Vealers, medium to choice, $10.50 to $13.75, heavy calves, medium to choice, $6 to $7.75. Stocker and feeder steers, common to choice, $6.75 to $9.25. Fat lambs medium to choice $12.25 to $14.35, yearling wethers, medium to choice, $9 to $12, fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9, feeding lambs, medium to choice $12.50 to $14.50. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Mar. 22,	Mar. 20,	Mar. 21,1925
	20 Industrials	146.32	144.80	119.60
	20 R.R. stocks	107.83	106.78	97.35

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 23.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XX, No. 69 Section 1 March 24, 1926.

PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT An amendment of the Packers and Stockyards Act, designed to "put teeth into that statute," was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Capper, according to the press to-day.

TOBACCO CO-OPERATIVE FAILS A Florence, S. C., dispatch to the press to-day states that the 90-day campaign for signing farmers in the South Carolina tobacco belt by the Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association has failed, and the effort was virtually abandoned at a meeting here. Whether there will be a revival of interest and renewed effort, or whether the association will modify its plans so as to continue operation with a smaller sign-up than the original contracts called for, has not been determined. The campaign resulted in only 28.2 per cent of the total production of the South Carolina belt being signed. Contracts call for a 65 per cent sign-up, and are not effective unless this percentage is obtained.

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES The Washington Post to-day says: "The actuary of the Treasury Department has furnished revised figures as to the probable receipts and expenditures of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927. They are: Receipts, according to the budget estimate, $3,824,530,203; reductions by reason of the new tax law, $319,000,000; corrected estimate, $3,505,530,203. Estimated withdrawals from the Treasury in 1927 will be $3,494,222,308; leaving an estimated balance of $11,307,894. From this it is feared that there may be a deficit at the end of 1927. It is pointed out that already the House has drawn on the Treasury, for 1928, $25,000,000 in the public buildings bill. Majority Leader Tilson says: 'Any material increase in expenditure, or authorization, even for the most meritorious purposes, can not be justified unless we are willing to go back and undo what we have already done in the tax law.' It would be unfortunate for the Treasury to face a deficit at the end of the fiscal year June 30, 1927. However, there is a comforting thought that internal revenue receipts so far are ahead of last year; and will probably exceed last year's receipts by $30,000,000. This trend of tax receipts proves the truth of the claim that when taxes are excessive revenue may decrease, and when taxes are made moderate revenue tends to increase."

AMERICAN WOOLEN REPORT A Springfield, Mass., dispatch to the press to-day says: "The report of President Andrew G. Pierce, read in the annual meeting of the American Woolen Company at Springfield, March 23, said that the company had experienced a trying year, and that although conditions in 1925 were generally more favorable than in 1924, it was possible to show even a small profit after all charges only by the exercise of the most rigid economy and careful cooperation between management and employees."

Section 2

Agricultural Legislation "The Editors" of World's Work have written "An Open Letter to the Iowa Farmer" in their issue for April. This says in part:

"Dear Mr. Farmer from Iowa: Any one who has been in Washington recently and has listened to the talk on the farm problem can hardly help feeling that if your future prosperity depends upon assistance from the Federal Government the only advice to you is to sell out. There is little likelihood that the Federal Government is going to fix prices, underwrite your surplus, or give you a subsidy. Even the Dickinson bill, which is mostly words signifying nothing, is not likely to pass. The administration would unquestionably like to help you for your own sake. It would like to have your good will for the sake of your vote. But there are two fundamental reasons why it will not subsidize your business in any way but by a tariff--and that will not help you. The first is that the economists of the administration do not believe that the measures that you propose will help you in the long run, or that they are workable. The second is that the industrial portions of the country and many other farming sections don't care to contribute to your relief. The President was brought up in the political school of Senator Murray Crane. He is a profound believer in a high tariff, but there is nothing in the philosophy of that school in favor of subsidies, price fixing, or the like....But the decision will not be his. Your own leaders know that the other sections of the country are not going to put their hands in their pockets to subsidize you, no matter what name the subsidy be under. In the long years that the cotton farmer starved did you run to his rescue? Have you instructed your Congressman to vote subsidies to the teaching and preaching professions? Have you ever investigated the percentage of failures in the mercantile trade to see if it did not need help? For years Iowa was a very prosperous State, but it set no precedents for the relief of less fortunate communities. We point this out not by way of criticism but merely in an endeavor to make more comprehensible to you the attitude which others will take about your present difficulties....."

Butter Tariff An editorial in The Pacific Dairy Review for March 11 says: "....In the long run it is doubtful whether the increase in the duty on butter will have any direct benefit to the dairymen. The high prices that butter has commanded, especially at certain seasons, is very much a thing of the past. Oleomargarine competition is one factor that has put the clamp on this. There is also the fact that we produce butter more evenly in quantity throughout the year, which keeps the markets on a more even level. With butter as cheap as we have had it in this country more of the foreign butter will seek its sale in the European markets. Indirectly this will afford some relief to agriculture in general. It means that with the influence of foreign butter completely removed we can turn more encouragingly to supplying the demands of our own country. Much of our surplus corn, oats and other grains can be turned into butter with less fear of over-production of that commodity. We should not import food products that we can produce. To import butter and export grain out of which butter can be produced is anomalous. Twelve cents a pound is a prohibitive duty on butter, but when everything is taken into consideration it is justified."

Farm Relief Legislation An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 22 says: "Of the making of farm 'relief' bills, with suggestions for more bills, there seems to be no end. The absurd provisions in some show they are not the

product of men conversant with farm conditions, while their very multiplicity is proof that there is no agreement as to what is wanted. From this it is a logical inference that not many real farmers are asking legislation....Iowa has been the storm center of the so-called corn crisis; but in the news columns of this paper there was a resume of the financial situation in which the correspondent in Des Moines gives the names of the banks and the bankers quoted; their statements of conditions were a flat contradiction of the propaganda implying that Iowa is almost bankrupt. One authority shows that the corn crop of Iowa this year will sell for over $400,000,000, or $124,000,000 more than it brought last year. From the Corn Belt Dailies, under the heading, 'Agitation for Farm Relief,' the following is taken: 'It may be wondered why there is such an insistent demand for farm legislation. There are two reasons: One is that the man who sells corn has been having a hard time this winter. His corn is poor in quality and the price low. While only a fifth of the corn is consumed off the farm, more than a fifth of the producers are hard hit, because many sell their corn to other producers who feed livestock. Another reason for the agitation is that it is fomented by men who have a selfish interest of one kind or another at stake. They may be adventurers, hoping for a good position in a surplus handling body authorized by Congress; they may be farm organization leaders, committed to a relief program by sentiment among their membership which they can not combat; they may be politicians seeking votes. Most of those whose knowledge of agricultural conditions is gleaned from the city newspapers probably have a misconception of the true state of affairs. They are likely to have concluded that farm people are pretty much a unit in demanding governmental relief, and that the reason for this must be quite general farm distress. But they see only the froth. Back of it is a great body of hard-headed farmers who are going on about their business, knowing that they must work out their own problems.' These confusions of counsel, with no apparent agreement on anything whatever, would indicate that 'Corn Belt Dailies' accurately described the situation."

Flour Mill Consolidation

An editorial in The Northwestern Miller for March 17 says: "Elsewhere in this issue appear news details of the consolidation of ownership of the milling and grain interests controlled by B. B. Sheffield, of Minneapolis, with the milling properties and business of the Larabee Flour Mills Corporation, Kansas City. The capacity of the properties thus brought under single control is approximately twenty-six thousand barrels, making the newly formed commander corporation, in point of size, one of the four or five dominant concerns of the flour milling industry. ...The present combination is made up of concerns which are of substantial trade importance, have long records of success and highly profitable operation, and have been outstanding in the general character of their management. Mr. Sheffield's success in milling in recent years is well known, while the Larabee Company has an enviable reputation in the Southwest for the high standards of its methods. As before stated in these columns, there are widely varying views as to the applicability of modern methods of consolidation to flour milling. Many sincerely believe that they are constructive developments, and that sooner or later this industry will be composed of fewer and much larger units. The truth of this will, of course, be revealed through actual and practical application. The present grouping will have every advantage of proved management, ample capital and credit, possession of modern and well-distributed plants, and exceptional trade favor for its products. It is, on all accounts, entitled to the good and friendly interest of its associates and competitors."

Population An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 20 says: "It is not difficult to see that the growth of the population of the United States is coming slowly to a standstill. We are doing better for reasons which will not long obtain. We are saving more babies and we can remember, with justifiable satisfaction, that the death rate in the first year per thousand has declined from 17.6 to 12.3 in a quarter of a century. It is obviously nearing the irreducible minimum. In the same period the number of the typical American family which was five (4.9) is now 4.3. Look at it in another way. Although there are fifteen million more people in the country, the rate of growth of population is the same as it was ten years ago. It should have been fifteen per cent larger. The people who feared this country might become too crowded, or those who boasted the certainty of 200,000,000 within the next forty years, may set about revising their guesses....Impressive growth of population is something of a fetish to the unthinking, but every manufacturer and business man, every producer of anything from bank credit to transportation, knows that increasing population means increasing markets. It is true that modern methods of cultivating wants as well as meeting needs can still find a wide field to exploit. Immigration enters curiously little into the proposition, even if we were still taking immigrants at the rate of a million a year and if the principal sources of supply, the countries of Europe, were not well under their strictly limited quotas. But an increase in this way would be only a part of what might well be the natural population growth....It is probable that the migratory movement from the farms is slowing down also, and is even balanced by the immigration of a desirable farming class from Canada. It is anything but an unmixed evil that the growth of such cities as New York should be arrested. We are to remember that there is much to be said for a gain in quality to offset even an ultimate loss in numbers."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for March 22 says: "Providence proverbially helps him who helps himself. It is not altogether certain that politicians have the same habit. It sometimes appears that they give most of their attention to those who most persistently refuse to come to their own aid. But, be that as it may, and whether or not cynics have twisted the original meaning of the venerable old proverb, the farmers of this country would do well to give a good deal more thought than they have been doing to the matter of helping themselves instead of wasting so much of their energies journeying to Washington for help. This much has all along been more than clear to all unbiased students of our agricultural situation as it has worked itself out within the past few years. It has been brought to the attention of the country again, however, in rather forceful fashion by the recently published report of the Department of Agriculture about the intentions of farmers to plant certain specified crops this spring. As to the figures thus officially presented, they will be taken with a grain of salt so far as details are concerned. It is hardly given to man to know what the future holds with any great degree of accuracy, particularly when the subject of such prediction is something so incommensurate as human intentions. It will be generally recognized moreover that the department has entered a very hazardous field in saying in advance that overproduction in several lines is to be expected. When due allowance is made for all such factors, the truth remains, however, that not only according to the testimony of the Department of Agriculture, but on the strength of much other supplementary evidence, the farmers of the country

are this year as much as ever disinclined to use much discrimination in the acreages that they are planning to devote to their sundry crops. This incapacity of the agricultural producer to adjust his production to probable demand even to the degree that his distinctly unwieldy industry permits is of course proverbial. It may be said with considerable positiveness that when farm production in this country has been measurably well accommodated to demand, the adjustment has far more often been the result of good fortune than it has been the outgrowth of good management or shrewd foresight.....The worst of the matter is that each difficult situation that is thus created brings no intelligent endeavor to improve fundamentals, not even indeed any effort to obtain from Washington what might with good reason be demanded on behalf of the farmer, but rather renewed campaigns for panaceas that could not help but make the situation worse instead of better in the long run. If, for example, many of our farmers proceed with what are now said to be their acreage plans, and if the season is normally good, we may well see in the autumn a recrudescence of the sort of outbreak, the kind of complaint and the political results that flowed from the Corn Belt last fall. It ought not to be necessary again to point out that from such developments as these nothing good either for the Nation as a whole or for the farmer is likely to come

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 23: Chicago livestock quotations: Hogs, top $13.75, bulk of sales $11.30 to $12.70. Beef steers choice $10.25, good $9.60 to $10.75, medium $8.75 to $9.85, common $7.50 to $8.85. Heifers, good and choice, $7.50 to $10.50, common and medium $6 to $8.75; cows, good and choice, $6.85 to $8.25, common and medium $4.85 to $6.85, canner and cutter $3.85 to $4.85. Vealers, medium to choice, $11 to $14.25, heavy calves, medium to choice, $6 to $7.75, stocker and feeder steers, common to choice, $6.75 to $9.25. Fat lambs medium to choice $12.25 to $14.35; yearling wethers, medium to choice, $9 to $12, fat ewes, common to choice $5.50 to $9, feeding lambs medium to choice, $12.50 to $14.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $4.45-$4.50 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $4.20-$4.25 f.o.b. Rochester, Wisconsin stock $4-$4.15 on the Chicago carlot market; mostly $3.80 f.o.b. Waupaca. New York Baldwin apples mostly $3.25-$3.75 per barrel in eastern cities; $3-$3.15 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage $2-$3 per 1½ bushel hamper Texas domestic type $90-$100 bulk per ton in distributing centers; $50-$60 f.o.b. New York midwestern yellow onions mostly $3-$3.75 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers; $3-$3.25 f.o.b. Rochester, New York.

Grain prices quoted March 23: No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.63½¢ Kansas City $1.62½. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.59¼; St.Louis $1.61; Kansas City $1.54-$1.60. No.3 mixed corn Kansas City 61¾¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 67½¢; Kansas City 63½¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 67¾¢; Kansas City 62¾¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 39¢; St. Louis 40¼¢; Kansas City 38½¢.

Cotton - Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 9 points, closing at 18.25¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 8 points, closing at 18.64¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Mar. 23,	Mar. 22,	Mar. 23,1925
	20 Industrials	143.86	146.32	116.82
	20 R.R. stocks	107.67	107.83	95.66

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 24.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 70 Section 1 March 25, 1926.

GOODING HAUL MEASURE REJECTED

The Associated Press to-day says: "The Senate yesterday rejected, 46 to 33, the Gooding long and short haul bill. Thus representatives of the intermountain territory again lost in their 40-year fight to prevent transcontinental carriers from granting a lower rate for hauls to Pacific coast ports than to intermediate points. Two years ago the Senate passed a similar measure, 54 to 23, but it failed of action in the House....."

MUSCLE SHOALS

American Farm Bureau Federation representatives told the Muscle Shoals lease negotiating committee yesterday that the farmers of the country are looking to Muscle Shoals for the reduction of cost in the production of nitrogen for fertilizer purposes. (Press, Mar. 25.)

DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURE LEGISLATION

Creation of a new committee to examine expenditures of the Executive departments was proposed yesterday by Representative Moore, of Virginia, to supplant the eleven small committees now in charge of expenditures in individual departments, and was supported by Chairman Madden, of the House appropriation committee. (Press, Mar. 25.)

FARM LEGISLATION

The House agricultural committee voted yesterday to hold day and night sessions in an effort to report farm legislation at this session. (Press, Mar. 25.)

TARIFF COMMISSION INVESTIGATION

The press to-day reports: "The flexible provision of the tariff law was attacked as a threat and as a deterrent to business by Thomas Walker Page, former chairman of the Tariff Commission, in testimony yesterday before the special Senate committee investigating administration of the law....."

FOOD PRODUCTS MERGERS

A Baltimore dispatch to the press to-day states that seven corporations, headed by the Ward Food Products Corporation, denied, in an answer filed in Federal District Court yesterday, Government allegations that they are engaged in formation of "a huge combination in the baking industry." The Government action, a petition in equity filed February 8, asked an injunction on the grounds that the corporations were in violation of the Sherman and Clayton anti-trust acts. The corporations deny that they form a combination controlled from New York, or that their principal officers are officers in other companies or corporations engaged in the manufacture and distribution of foodstuffs.

Section 2

Agricultural Influence

Mark Sullivan is the author of an extensive article in World's Work for April, under the title: "The Waning Influence of the Farmer; His Power in an Industrial Nation Becomes Less and Less." He says in part: "The farming population of the United States is now (by the census of 1920) about 43,000,000. Actually, the farming population is less, for in the census reports the classification 'rural population' means everybody not living in incorporated towns. However, this classification will serve to show the trend. The total population (as of 1920) is about 106,000,000. That is, the farmer to-day comprises about 40 per cent of the population. He has that percentage of standing, of prestige, that share in the country's economic structure. Also, he has that proportion of political power, that measure of capacity to have his way. By 1930 the total population of the United States at the ordinarily accepted rate of increase will be 122,000,000. All this increase of 16,000,000, if the present policy is continued, will have gone into manufacturing and trade, into industries other than farming. One can count on this because the farmer is told to keep his business down to where it will supply merely the domestic American market. To be sure, the increased 16,000,000 of population will consume that much more wheat, corn, and other farm goods; but there will be no increase in the number of farmers. This is true, first, because the present export surplus which the farmer is now counseled to forget and dismiss will be enough to feed much of the added population in America; second, because methods of farming always are being improved and the improvement in methods will increase farm production sufficiently to take care of the greater population without any increase in the number of individuals employed in the industry of farming. Meantime, the entire increase of population will have gone into industries other than farming. The farm population will be stationary. The industrial population will be increasing rapidly. Ten years from now the farmer will be only 35 per cent of the total population. Twenty years from now he will be only 25 per cent. The farmer's share of population, the farmer's share of the total voting strength, the farmer's proportion of influence in politics, his place in the whole economic and social structure, will be steadily growing less. The farmer's economic status, and his social status, will be that of gardener to an immense manufacturing and business community. Presently we shall reach a point where the farmer will be only, let us say, one fifth of the total population, where the farmer will have only one vote while the other industrial interests will have four votes. About that time something will happen, something that the farmer can prevent now, but which he can not prevent when he has been subordinated to the status of one vote in four. About that time the manufacturers and all those engaged in other industries will say their food is costing them too much. They will run into a period where it is difficult to sell American manufactured goods abroad because of the competition of other countries. They will encounter obstacles to carrying out the grandiose advice about flooding the world with American exports of manufactures. At that point the manufacturers will say that America must reduce its manufacturing cost. Among the first things to occur to them will be the thought that America's food is costing too much. The employees and everybody engaged in other industries will say the same thing. Under the pressure of diminishing wages they will look about and say: 'The gardener's pay is too high--our food is costing us too much. Let us take the tariff off farm products. We must buy our food as cheaply as possible. If Australia, or South America, or Canada is willing to produce food more cheaply, we must buy from them.'...."

Agricultural Legislation An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for March 24 says: "It might be possible to take a good deal more seriously the recently made suggestion that the cotton planters of the South and the wheat growers of the North ally themselves for political purposes if either group had been able in the past to show any unanimity of opinion among themselves. As it is with the sundry delegates and representatives of the Middle West fighting and bickering among themselves with respect to what they should demand of Congress, and with the cotton grower uncertain as to what he wants from the Government, it is hardly likely that the two groups differing in political traditions and modes of thought would find it very feasible to join hands for any positive or constructive purpose. This total inability of the farm population of the country to unite its forces for sound reform in matters vitally touching its interests has enabled the administration to avoid the agrarian problem by merely 'sitting tight,' as the saying goes, and demanding that the interests involved make known just what they want. This attitude of administration and its insistence upon the thought that nothing be done that would entail large outlays from the Treasury have without question saved the country much that it might otherwise have suffered. But, on the other hand, constructive reform of the sort that is really indicated, and of the kind that the farmer has a right to demand, rarely develops out of a situation of this variety, and is not likely to do so now."

Butter Tariff An editorial in The Iowa Homestead for March 11 says: "The new tariff is expected to make it unprofitable for any foreign country to export butter to the United States, and makes the American butter market strictly a domestic proposition....It will be interesting to note whether or not agricultural leaders, who have been so concerned about obtaining equality for agriculture by means of foreign-export corporations, will make any real effort to see that American farmers receive the profits they should have from the protection afforded them by this new order. Butter is not, to any considerable degree, an export crop. This is indicated by the fact that butter producers have made a showing that it was necessary to afford them protection on the domestic market. For the present at least the marketing of butter is purely a domestic problem. No export-corporation act can be of any assistance to the dairymen.....If American farmers do not profit from the tariff upon butter, it will be because they do not take advantage of the opportunities afforded them. The same energy devoted to the domestic butter market in the dairy States which is being wasted in chasing phantoms in other fields would mean millions of dollars in additional cash to the dairymen of the Middle West."

Cotton An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 24 says: "In the final cotton ginning report it is shown that the cotton crop of 1925 was the second largest in history. Notwithstanding this astounding fact, prices for old crop cotton closed, on the day of the report, with scarcely any change whatever, some of the new crop months even making small advances. When the final official estimate was made as of December 1, it showed that the cotton crop would be the third largest, but the ginning report is 480,000 bales beyond that estimate. As it now stands, the great crop of 1914 retains its record by a bare margin of 49,025 standard bales. These facts, coming at a time when market sentiment was extremely bearish, would be expected to produce a slump, yet there was none. Crop and carryover would mean a total supply of American cotton of about 18,700,000 bales. World consumption for the year can only be

guessed at, but on the strength of the first six months of the year it can be assumed at around 14,500,000 bales. This would leave a large surplus to begin the new crop year. In the face of all statistics and estimates, the market stands fairly firm. One principal reason must be in the quality of the crop. This is something that never appears in statistics, but it is an influence that always makes itself felt....Notwithstanding the large supply in proportion to consumption demand, the price of spot cotton, white middling basis, has held above 19 cents at New York. Spot cotton would not be at such a premium as it now is if there was an abundance of good cotton. The supply in New York may be taken as fairly typical. Two days before the ginning report was published licensed warehouses at New York held 10,969 bales of inspected cotton, Government class. Of this, only 853 bales were middling, which is the basic grade, and 2,412 bales above middling. There were 7,704 bales below middling. This of course does not show how much cotton is immature and weak; but it does show a large percentage of the quantity on hand as grades below basic, and of that a great deal stained and tinged. In bales the crop was enormous, but in white, spinnable cotton it was not so large. It is probable that this lack of quality is what kept the market from a slump."

Rubber Production and Prices - A London dispatch to the press of March 24 states that nine of the largest groups of British rubber producers, having learned their lesson from the success of the Stevenson restriction plan, have organized quietly for the purpose of stabilizing the price of rubber at a 60-cent level. They call their purpose stabilization, but in effect it will be an effort to keep rubber from falling below 60 cents. These nine groups have an output of 72,000 tons a year, or about 11 per cent of the world's production. They have agreed to act in concert, selling rubber freely when the price is above 60 cent and withholding it when below.

Texas Products French Strother is the author of an article on "The Railroad War in Texas," described as a battle for the Rio Grande vegetable traffic, in World's Work for April. He says in part: "....These dietary yearnings of man have more than once provoked wars of conquest, and they are provoking one now, though this one is a bloodless campaign. The combatants are the railroads of the Southwest. The chief objective is the Rio Grande Valley, a remote corner of Texas about the size of New Jersey, where of recent years the mesquite jungle has rapidly given way to rich irrigated fields that produce all the delights of the palate when Chicago and St.Louis are buried in snow. These cities in winter are voracious markets for the vegetables and fruits of Texas, which they are willing to buy at high prices. The railroads want the business of carrying this perishable traffic because it is so valuable that it can afford to pay high rates for quick service. Thirty years ago, E. T. Earl, of Los Angeles, entered on a pioneer large-scale use of refrigerator cars to get California fruits to the Chicago markets in good condition. His success was quickly emulated, not only in the West but also on the Atlantic seaboard, so that to-day much of the prosperity of Florida and Georgia and the Carolinas rests upon the winter appetite of New York and the ability of the refrigerator car to bring their products unspoiled to the northern market. Texas is the newest of the popular truck gardens catering to the North, and its market is the whole thriving and populous valley of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Although it seems to the traveler in Florida that the entire population of those regions has moved in a body to the Everglade State, carrying their appetites to the source of supply of fresh foods in winter, the fact is that more numerous millions actually have remained in the

valley cities and are eager to pay the price of having the foods brought to the appetites. This is the opportunity of Texas. Especially is it the opportunity of the railroads that enter that imperial State. They are engaged in a lively struggle to share in this great and growing traffic."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products March 24: Chicago livestock quotations: Hogs, top, $13.50, bulk of sales $11.30 to $12.70. Beef steers choice $10.35 to $11.25, good $9.60 to $10.75, medium $8.75 to $10, common $7.50 to $8.85; heifers good and choice, $7.50 to $10.50, common and medium $6 to $8.75; cows, good and choice, $6.75 to $8.25, common and medium, $4.85 to $6.75, canner and cutters $3.85 to $4.85; vealers, medium to choice, $11 to $14.50, heavy calves, medium to choice, $4 to $7.75, stocker and feeder steers, common to choice, $6.75 to $9.35. Fat lambs medium to choice, $12.25 to $14.35, yearling wethers, medium to choice, $9 to $12, fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9, feeding lambs, medium to choice, $12.50 to $14.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $4.50-$4.65 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $4.25-$4.30 f.o.b. Wisconsin Round Whites $4.20-$4.35 carlot sales in Chicago; $4.-$4.15 f.o.b. Waupaca. New York Baldwin apples $3-$4 per barrel in leading markets; $3-$3.15 f.o.b. Rochester. Best mid-western onions, yellow varieties $3.25-$4 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers. New York stock $2.75-$3.25 in eastern cities; mostly $3 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage $2.25-$2.50 per 1½ bushel hamper, top of $3 in New York City. Texas domestic type irregularly higher at $80-$100 bulk per ton in distributing centers; $40-$50 f.o.b.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 41½¢; Chicago 39½¢; Philadelphia 41½; Boston 42¢. Closing prices on Wisconsin primary cheese markets March 23: Twins 19½¢; Single Daisies 20¢; Double Daisies 19½¢; Young American 20¢; Longhorns 20¼¢; Square Prints 20½¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 6 points, closing at 18.19¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 4 points, closing at 18.60¢.

Grain prices quoted March 24: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.52-$1.64. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.57; Kansas City $1.60½. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.61; Kansas City $1.52-$1.58. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 60-63¢; No.4 mixed corn Chicago 62½¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 65-68¢; St.Louis 69½¢; Kansas City 63¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 68¢; Kansas City 64¼¢. No.3 white oats Minneapolis 35¾¢; St. Louis 41¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Mar. 24,	Mar. 23,	Mar. 24, 1925
	20 Industrials	140.31	143.86	116.78
	20 R.R. stocks	106.32	107.67	94.32

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 25.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 71 Section 1 March 26, 1926.

IN CONGRESS Under terms of a resolution by Senator King yesterday, the Secretary of Agriculture would be directed to furnish the Senate with the report and findings of the Secretary's agents in his investigation of conditions in the Biological Survey.

Freight and express rates on fruits and vegetables would be investigated by the Senate interstate commerce committee, under a resolution introduced yesterday by Senator Trammell.

The Secretary of the Interior reported unfavorably yesterday to the Senate public lands committee on the Ashurst bill proposing the sale or lease of 2,000,000 acres of land in Arizona for the benefit of disabled service men. (Press, Mar. 26.)

Government employees' retirement legislation will not be taken up by the House at this session, according to the Washington Post to-day.

FARM RELIEF The Associated Press to-day reports: "Farm relief discussion overflowed yesterday from the House agriculture committee to the floor of the House where Representative Greenwood asserted that 'this Administration is not going to give us any farm relief.'....'These reformers from the Corn Belt,' he said, 'might as well be honest, face the facts and realize that the tariff must be lowered before they can compete with industry.' John Tromble of Kansas, representing the National Board of Farm Organizations, urged the committee to accept the Corn Belt bill to stabilize crops by levying an equalization fee on them to finance the surplus. With completion of his testimony the delegation representing Middle Western and national farm organizations announced that it would put on only two or three more witnesses. Chairman Haugen indicated, however, that a number of witnesses would be heard in opposition to the measure. He also reminded the committee that there were more than a dozen other relief bills pending, all widely divergent, on which hearings had been asked....."

PRIZE STOCK FOR GREECE The New York Times to-day says: "Owners of prize stock in America have agreed to contribute from their herds to restock at least a part of Greece, according to announcement last night at a farewell dinner in the Fraternity Club, New York, in honor of Professor O. S. Morgan, head of the Department of Agriculture of Columbia University, who is to leave shortly for Greece and the Near East for an intensive study of agricultural conditions. Ery Kehaya, President of the Standard Commercial Tobacco Company, who presided, said that Henry Morgenthau, jr. had contributed a pedigreed bull from his model farm at Hopewell Junction, Dutchess County....It was said that Mr.Morgenthau, jr. would contribute other animals from his Holstein herd. Mr. Kehaya said seeds would also be sent from here suitable for cultivation in the soil and climate of Greece to rehabilitate crops. The dinner was under the auspices of the agricultural committee of the Near East Relief...."

Section 2

Artificial Wool

The Pastoral Review (Melbourne) for February 16 says: "The new commodity variously described as artificial wool, synthetic wool, sniafil, etc., has during the month been the subject of much discussion in wool trade circles. From samples seen we consider there is no reason to alter the views expressed in our leading article last month, viz., that the fibre is likely, in common with artificial silk, to prove complementary to, rather than a competitor with, natural wool. At the same time it must be borne in mind that scientific investigation is constantly proceeding with the object of perfecting the manufacture of the world's necessities on an economical synthetic basis, and it is neither safe nor sensible to assume that these investigations will lead to nothing. The tremendous improvement brought about during the last few years in the manufacture of artificial silk is quite sufficient warning against the folly of a contemptuous attitude in regard to artificial wool.
George Fairbairn, the Victorian Agent-General, who has recently arrived here on a brief visit from London, gives some pointed advice on the subject. He says:--'Our endeavor should be to deliver our wool in a condition that will cause as little expense as possible in the process of manufacture. The present prices for wool are undoubtedly payable, but we should not forget that the cost of production in the last 15 years has increased by 100 per cent. It is as well to realize that the cost of production can not with safety be allowed to mount up indefinitely.' There is the rub, and it applies with special force to the growers of crossbred wool, who are nearer the 'bread line' and more likely to feel the effects of a perfected substitute. Artificial wool should have at least one good effect if it awakens Australian Governments to the necessity of affording to the pastoral industry all possible encouragement and support in the direction of reducing its present heavy production costs. It also points to the necessity for ceaseless effort to improve the quality of the lower grade wools, which form a large percentage of our clip."

Beet Subsidy in Britain

An editorial in The Field (London) for March 11 says: "The one really bright spot on the horizon of British arable farming is the cultivation of sugar beet. Owing to the fact that the selling price is fixed and known at least two years ahead there is no risk on that score, and the farmer can concentrate his energies on growing the crop without having to worry as to the price it will fetch when grown. Furthermore, at the present prices the crop shows a useful profit to the grower. These prices are, however, only possible because of the Government subsidy on the sugar produced. In spite of theoretical objections to subsidies in any form, the sugar beet industry was recognized as so valuable to the country that this particular subsidy was approved by members of all political parties. It is an industry which has had to be helped at the beginning in every country. In Germany it was started by Frederick the Great, because he wanted to increase the rural population of Pomerania. In France it was started by Napoleon, because the British Navy cut off the sugar supply. In most Continental countries it is still assisted by the State through the general protective tariff, while in Holland--a free trade country like our own--it received State assistance for 50 years before it became self-supporting. What is the position here? The sugar beet industry is to be helped for ten years, and after that it has got to stand on its own legs--or die in the attempt. The subsidy granted by the Government is at the rate of 19s. 6d. per cwt. of sugar produced for the years 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927; 13s. per cwt. for 1928, 1929, and 1930;

and 6s. 6d. per cwt. for 1931, 1932, and 1933. What is the object of this subsidy? It has brought capital into the industry, for the investor has been able to estimate the amount of State support which can be counted upon for a term of years, and it has enabled the factories to pay a higher price than would otherwise be possible for the raw material, and thus has encouraged farmers to grow a new crop. But this is only the beginning of the benefit to be derived from the subsidy....While the farmer is improving the cultural operations the factory manager is improving the technique of his business. He is increasing the throughput of the factory. He is training his men. He is improving the quality of the sugar produced, and he is extracting a higher percentage from the beet. Altogether there is every hope that these economies may be effected at least as quickly as the drop in the rate of subsidy, and that by 1934 the industry may be safely established. There is one other possibility for sugar beet which must be mentioned, though we propose to deal with it more fully later on. That is the question of the production of power alcohol from beet. The consumption of motor spirit in this country is going up by leaps and bounds, and a home-produced substitute for petrol would be invaluable. Whereas a sugar factory requires fully 10,000 acres of beet within an economic radius if it is to work at maximum capacity, a distillery can be worked profitably with 2,250 or 2,500 tons of beet, and therefore distilleries would provide a market for beet in many districts where they would not conflict with sugar factories, and where otherwise farmers would have no inducement to grow this useful crop....."

Farm Tenancy

An editorial in Farm and Ranch for March 13 says: "Just as long as agricultural lands have a speculative value there will be an acute tenant problem. The man who owns land and holds it for any other reason than to secure a profit over a period of years of operation, generally takes little interest either in the land or in the man to whom he rents it. Tenants we will always have, but because a man is a tenant he should not be classed as a shiftless ne'er-do-well. Many men are tenants by choice --business partners of the owner of the land--and are making good. Others are tenants temporarily because they are looking ahead to the time when they will own their own farm and home....Those who have made the question of tenantry a close study divide the responsibility of the tenant problem between the renter and the landowner. The conclusion is that if there were more good landlords there would be more good tenants. At least, the hope is expressed that there would be a gradual improvement in tenants. The unanimous conclusion of these investigators is to the effect that the man who rents land and arbitrarily demands that his renter plant all cotton from year to year and who refuses to cooperate in helping the renter produce food and feed for his own use, is one of the big factors in the failure of agriculture in the Southwest."

Harvester Company Earnings

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "Reflecting the improved position noted agriculturally not only in the United States, but also in some foreign countries last year, the report of the International Harvester Company for 1925 shows net income available for dividends of $19,171,240, an increase of $3,092,684; equal, after allowing for dividends on the preferred stock to $14.82 a share on the 998,767 shares of outstanding common stock. In 1924 the company earned $11.86 a share on the junior issue.....Alexander Legge, president, in his report, says: 'The turnover in this industry is slow and the inventories are necessarily high. Moreover, during the last three months of the year, when deliveries

are light, the works must continue manufacture to provide stocks of implements for sale in the following year. Therefore, a large amount of working capital is continuously invested in inventories.'"

Mellon on European Conditions

Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, told members of Union League at Philadelphia March 24 that the financial reconstruction of Europe was in sight. When such reconstruction finally is completed, he said, the financial position of the world in general and of the average American citizen in particular will be vastly improved by natural strengthening of the general economic structure. America then, he said, will be in ideal position to aid Europe and herself by taking advantage of broader markets for surplus products of every character. "Budget equilibrium has been reached by the European nations with some very important exceptions," he said, "and all I think now appreciate the desirability of obtaining this balance and are earnestly working for it. We in the administration at Washington have been doing our part and there remains but France, Jugoslavia and Greece with whom debt-funding negotiations are pending. The flotation of foreign securities has become a commonplace in our money market. We approach fiscal reconstruction in Europe." (Press, Mar. 25.)

Price Fixing

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 24 says: "A bank cashier in Georgia asks the following questions, and they do more honor to his heart than his head. 'Why should it be thought strange that the farmer have authority of law to price his products at a price to cover cost of production plus 5 per cent on his investment? The railroads have the lawful right to fix a price on transportation sufficient to pay cost of operation, plus. The fact is that everybody in business, except the farmer, is allowed to sell his products above cost.' It would be difficult to crowd more false analogies and unfounded assumptions into so short a space. There is no limit to the price a farmer can demand for his product. There is a limit to the price a railroad can demand for the transportation it produces. It can not, moreover, guarantee itself in the way this reader suggests. It can take no more than the Interstate Commerce Commission allows, even if the only alternative is bankruptcy. There are a few railroad receiverships at present operative which he might study to advantage. If 'everybody in business... is allowed to sell his products above cost' the farmer is no exception. This country controls 60 per cent of the world's production of cotton, and there is nothing to prevent the farmer from charging the Lancashire cotton spinner 40 cents a pound if he can get it. Railroads and public utilities are limited as to what they can charge, but not as to what they can lose when the cost of production goes up. Private producers of anything else, from steel frames to soap take all the market will give them. There is no one to guarantee them a profit, and that brings us to the essence of this Georgia bank cashier's claim. He wants the farmer, alone of all producers, to be guaranteed a profit which is to come out of the pockets of other producers who are not guaranteed profits. He does not want any restrictions on the farmer's choice of crops, like the Interstate Commerce Commission imposes on the railroads in their plans for producing transportation. If the price of cotton were guaranteed at what this reader considers a fair profit, cotton would be produced on land which ought, in the general interest, to be used for something more profitable. There would be a large excess of cotton, and the world price would consequently fall. The rest of us would be invited to pay the difference between the 15 cents a pound world price and the 45 cents a pound profitable price which the Georgia farmer thought fair...."

Woman Farm Labor

Despite the hardships of the "fruits gypsies," as the migrant workers on western fruit ranches are popularly called, a number of women "follow the fruits" in this way in order to give themselves or their children an outing in the country, and at the same time to supplement the family income, according to a report of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, on conditions of employment of women in the highly seasonal industries of fruit growing and canning in the State of Washington. Nonresident workers constituted about one-third of the 3,014 women who were interviewed during the investigation and who were employed in the berry fields, in the prune, apple, and pear orchards, in the fruit, vegetable, and fish canneries, and in the fruit warehouses in the State. The great majority of the migrants were found in the outdoor work. Some of the migrants failed to make their expenses and became stranded, a fact attributed in the report to the seasonal nature of the work and uncertainty in regard to length of employment and earnings. The berry pickers who were interviewed averaged 21.1 workdays and daily earnings of $1.60 during the season. The women who worked in the prune, apple, and pear orchards received much better pay, their average daily earnings for various jobs ranging from $2.97 to $3.43, but their average time of employment also was short, from one to four weeks, according to the occupation. The average season's earnings for women in the different occupations on the ranches ranged from $19.41 to $82.04. Although many of these women migrants had come only from various sections of Washington, a number were reported as having started from 18 other States, even from such far distant ones as Arkansas and New York.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Mar.25: Chicago livestock quotations: Hogs, top, $13.50, bulk of sales $11.10 to $12.70. Beef steers choice $10.25 to $11.25; good, $9.50 to $10.75, medium $8.75 to $9.90, common $7.50 to $8.85. Heifers, good and choice, $7.25 to $10.50, common and medium $6 to $8.75. Cows, good and choice $6.60 to $8.25, common and medium $4.85 to $6.60, canner and cutter $3.85 to $4.85. Vealers, medium to choice, $10.75 to $14.50, heavy calves, medium to choice, $6 to $7.75. Stocker and feeder steers, common to choice, $6.75 to $9.35. Fat lambs medium to choice, $12.25 to $14.35, yearling wethers, medium to choice, $12 to $14.25.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $4.60-$4.85 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; $4.30-$4.35 f.o.b. Rochester. Maine sacked Green Mountains mostly $4.85-$5, top of $5.15 in New York City. Northern Round Whites $4.30-$4.40 carlot sales in Chicago; $4.05-$4.30 f.o.b. Florida Spaulding Rose $15-$17 per barrel. Florida pointed type cabbage $4.25-$4.75 per 1½ bushel hamper, top $3 in New York City. Texas domestic type cabbage $90-$100 bulk per ton; New York Baldwin apples $3-$4 per barrel in the leading markets; $3-$3.15 f.o.b. Rochester. Midwestern onions yellow varieties $3-$3.75 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers, top of $4 in New York City.

Grain prices quoted March 25: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.53-$1.65. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.61. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 60-62¢. No.4 mixed corn Chicago 63¾¢. No.2 yellow corn Minneapolis 65-68¢. No.3 white oats Minneapolis 36¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 15 points, closing at 18.33¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 20 points, closing at 18.80¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 41½¢; Chicago 40¢; Philadelphia 41½¢; Boston 42¢.

Closing prices on Wisconsin primary cheese markets March 24: Single Daisies 20¢; Double Daisies 20¢; Flats 20¢; Longhorns 20¼¢; Square Prints 20½¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

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DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX. No. 72 Section 1 March 27, 1926.

NEW HAUL MEASURE OFFERED The Associated Press to-day says: "The fight against permitting railroads to charge higher freight rates for a long than for a shorter intermediate haul was renewed yesterday in the Senate. Despite the defeat Wednesday of the Gooding long and short haul bill, Senator Gooding reintroduced it in slightly modified form. The defeated measure would have prevented application of the long and short haul principle to meet any water competition, but the new bill would prohibit its invocation only to meet water competition through the Panama Canal."

FARM RELIEF LEGISLATION The Associated Press to-day says: "The dream of Pharaoh and a learned dissertation on the surplus crop situation by Jeffrey King, an English economist of 300 years ago, figured in yesterday's consideration of farm relief legislation by Congress. Representative Nelson reminded the House of Pharaoh's dream, wherein 'seven ill-favored and lean-fleshed kine did eat up seven well-favored and fat kine.' The American farmer, having experienced his fat years, said Mr. Nelson, is on his lean years, and should reckon accordingly. Mr. Nelson contended the tariff should be lowered, waterways developed and freight rates cut, but he declared that 'it is useless to discuss any of the proposed direct farm-aid plans, for in this Congress not one such bill will pass.' Chester H. Gray, Washington representative of the American Farm Bureau Federation, told the House agriculture committee that Jeffrey King around the year 1,600 had laid it down as an agricultural law that a ten per cent increase in surplus meant a 30 per cent decrease in prices."

RETIREMENT LEGISLATION The Washington Post to-day says: "The outlook for liberalized retirement legislation at this session of Congress is not any too bright, according to Republican leaders of the House, but it is not hopeless. Sponsors of the bill in both houses have not given up the fight because, they believe, the sentiment is in favor of amending the present law so as to provide for an increase in the annuity to a maximum of $1,200, based on a salary of $1,800, instead of the present maximum of $720. This they believe can be accomplished at this session if the Government employees who are pressing for an amendment to the law will not insist upon a reduction of the age limit of 70 years, as fixed by the existing law. ....."

FLORIDA FREIGHT BAN MODIFIED The press to-day states that a second modification of the embargo on freight shipments into Florida, which has been in effect for several months, was made at noon yesterday, when the ban was lifted from carload shipments into Jacksonville, according to an official report by the Car Service Division of the American Railway Association.

Section 2

Agricultural Edu. Education

An editorial in Sioux City Live Stock Record for March 23 says: "In a general way the following from the Omaha Journal-Stockman, and including a statement from Professor Pugsley, of the South Dakota Agricultural College may be admitted. However, we still insist that the college class room should stress the idea that the boy is not ready to take the whole management of business, whether that business be farming or otherwise, the day he gets his diploma and walks out of the college--a graduate .....The Journal-Stockman article is as follows: 'There is such an unlimited field of usefulness for graduates of agricultural colleges that it is little wonder so few of them go back to the farm. It is perhaps unfortunate for agriculture that other lines of business seem to offer more attractive fields to these trained men, but indirectly the industry profits from every man who leaves a college of agriculture with a degree. Machinery enters more and more into every industry, farming not excepted. "This means," says Dr. C. W. Pugsley of South Dakota State College, "that men must be trained in engineering as it relates to farming and rural life, and engineering graduates of agricultural colleges will be employed in farm implement factories, in charge of distribution branches. They will be connected with road and drainage projects, in electric power distributing plants and in charge of large farms. There is another rapidly developing field which may be a surprise to a good many business men," he says. "Many bankers, merchants and country editors are asking for college trained men who have come in close contact with progressive agricultural research and education, and who have given some attention to rural economics and sociology. These business people say that training of this sort is invaluable to their help. Such graduates are progressive, but at the same time attuned to the rural mind, and able to lead." Agriculture in America is undergoing a great and important change. The transformation is coming in response to the vast and radical changes in modern civilization. Perhaps this is one reason for the unrest throughout the country, farmers and rural communities finding it difficult to adjust themselves to the altered conditions brought about by the telegraph, the telephone, the automobile and the radio. Farming will never go backward, however, and there is not the remotest possibility that we will ever return to the good old days when the farmer was absolutely his own boss, self-supporting, self-sufficient and self-reliant. This is the day of organization, of mass movements, of combined thinking and acting. It is in this new era of agriculture that is upon us now that the trained agricultural graduate is to find his place.' "

Agriculture in Arkansas

Manufacturers Record for March 25 quotes from a bulletin entitled "The Relation of Industry to Agriculture in Arkansas," by J. A. Dickey, University of Arkansas. The author says in part: "In Arkansas, with many natural advantages in the way of climate, soils and topography essential to agricultural development, and having vast resources of raw materials, natural conditions for the development of hydro-electric power, and an abundant labor supply, being fairly distributed throughout the State, much can be accomplished through an adequate development of each type of industry. In fact, there exists

an interdependence of industry and agriculture to such an extent that the over or under development of either absolutely precludes the development of the other. Not only is this relation so rigidly fixed that the growth of the one depends upon the other, but in turn the progress, or lack of progress, of the State and its people is conditioned on the balance between its industries. One-sided development of industry leads to high prices of food products, poor conditions for labor, and finally the breaking down and shifting of industry, such as is to-day going on in the New England land States. Under either of these regions the progress of the State is retarded and the prosperity of every citizen seriously affected. From 1910 to 1920 twenty-five counties in Arkansas lost citizens. These counties were all predominantly rural. The census of agriculture of 1925 also shows for the first time in the history of the State that there was a decrease in the number of farms. This movement is reflected in the farm situation. In 1925 there were in round numbers 10,000 less farms in Arkansas than in 1920. It is likely that a few of these farms were combined to make larger ones, but during the same time there was a corresponding decrease in farm acreage in the State, which would indicate that practically all of the 10,000 farms were abandoned. This means that approximately 40,000 souls forsook the farms of Arkansas from 1920 to 1925. The drift is unmistakable. The tenants and owners on farms that for one reason or another do not afford them an opportunity for educating their children and some of the comforts of life are on their way to town. The question is which town. Will use be made of this labor in Arkansas, or will it go East and North? It is the best labor for manufacturing purposes in the world. It is all of homogeneous stock, whose full-blooded Americanism has made them the staunchest of citizens and the most reliable of workers....."

Cotton Cooperation in Mississippi

Manufacturers Record for March 25 quotes from the Staple Cotton Review of Greensboro, Miss., as follows: ".....In the process of working out our own salvation, of stabilizing our low-grade cotton at a figure above the level which meant the practical destruction of values, we adopted a very simple expedient. The foundation of the plan was to offer our services jointly to the growers who had produced this cotton and to the mills which would eventually need it. The essence of any solution of the surplus problem must be found in the carrying of the surplus pending its economic absorption. This carrying function the association undertook to discharge. In its discharge we would render a service to the manufacturer scarcely less valuable than that to the producer. The mills are willing to pay a fair price for what they buy. But they can not be expected to purchase something which they do not need, particularly when that commodity is being offered at prices so confusing and contradictory as to indicate a condition of utter demoralization on the part of the seller. We thoroughly apprehended the logic of the mill situation. What we proposed to do would have been misunderstood and honestly misconstrued four years ago. It would have been immediately taken as a movement to artificially and unfairly put up prices on the consumer. It would have been accepted as a challenge, rather than as an offer of service, genuinely and honestly made. One of the outstanding achievements of this association has been that of establishing close and intimate and mutually satisfactory contacts with the mills....."

Foreign Competition

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 26 says: "Is foreign competition threatening American agriculture? This idea is prevalent, and is being urged by some responsible authorities. Official figures are quoted, which taken at their face value would seem to bear out the assertion. For instance, in the first seven months of the fiscal year--July 1, 1925, to January 31, 1926--imports of 'agricultural products' amounted to $1,526,000,000, against $1,163,000,000 the preceding year. But statements like this must be analyzed to see what is in them. The Wall Street Journal has published, without comment, the details of the imports of agricultural commodities for the periods here cited. These imports are divided into three groups, animal, vegetable and forest products, and details given for each group. Now, take a look at them. Deducting $495,000,000 which are the forest products, we would have a remainder of $1,031,000,000 actual agricultural products, divided among animal and vegetable. The animal products imported amounted to $429,000,000. Take from this the silk imports of $264,000,000, and we have $165,000,000 for all other animal products. Of this, hides and wool make up $119,000,000. These two latter commodities permit ground for honest difference of opinion in regard to a tariff. Wool imports amounted to $68,700,000. The price of wool is now so high as to create a serious condition for the textile mills. Notwithstanding this attractively high price, American farmers do not produce half our requirements. Whether or not an essential raw material like hides should be taxed is a debatable question. But of the imports only $18,000,000 is for cattle, kip and calf skins, and $11,000,000 for sheep. The remainder is made up of buffalo, horse, goat, kid and kangaroo. Vegetable products imported in the same period amounted to $602,600,000. It has before been shown that tea, coffee, and sugar were the principal imports. These, with spices, cacao, copra and bananas, amount to $370,000,000. Against most of the remaining articles there is a tariff. Tobacco and cotton of kinds we do not produce, and other fibres like jute, hemp and sisal make up $102,000,000. Flaxseed, of which, in spite of the heavy tariff, our farmers do not produce half the requirements, make another $20,000,000. This leaves about $45,000,000, divided between grain, fruits, vegetables, nuts and vegetable oils, some of which do compete with American products. But the total of the competitive products is so small in comparison, that it seems hard to show wherein our home market for American agriculture is in real danger from producers of other countries."

Harvester Company Earnings

A Chicago dispatch to the press to-day says: "Reflecting the improved position noted agriculturally not only in the United States, but also in some foreign countries last year, the report of the International Harvester Company for 1925 shows net income available for dividends of $19,171,240, an increase of $3,092,684; equal, after allowing for dividends on the preferred stock to $14.82 a share on the 998,767 shares of outstanding common stock. In 1924 the company earned $11.86 a share on the junior issue. Alexander Legge, president, in his report says: 'The turnover in this industry is slow and the inventories are necessarily high. Moreover, during the last three months of the year, when deliveries are light, the works must continue manufacture to provide stocks of implements for sale in the following year. Therefore, a large amount of working capital is continuously invested in inventories.' "

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in The Washington Post for March 26 says: "A bulletin issued by the Department of Agriculture states that the maintenance of soil productivity depends largely upon those factors which are commonly referred to as 'farm practices,' that is, cultivation of the soil, crop rotation, the use of suitable fertilizers and agricultural lime, land drainage and irrigation. Cultivation comes first in importance, then rotation and fertilizers. Crop rotation has been recognized by agricultural scientists as one of the first necessities of success. It now forms one of the essential elements in scientific agriculture. Crop rotation not only increases the yield per acre but tends to avoid large surpluses, which seem to bother the growers now. The Department of Agriculture has given great attention to this matter, and has advised the farmers repeatedly to practice it as a partial solution of the larger problem of farm relief."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

March 26. Chicago Livestock quotations as of March 26: Hogs, top, $13.25, bulk of sales $11 to $12.50, beef steers choice, $10.25 to $11, good $9.40 to $10.50, medium $8.50 to $9.65, common $7.25 to $10.50, medium and common $6. to $8.60. Cows, good and choice, $6.50 to $8.25, common and medium $4.85 to $6.50, canners and cutters $3.85 to $4.85. Vealers, medium and choice, $6 to $7.75; heavy calves, medium to choice, $6 to $7.75. Stocker and feeder steers, common to choice, $6.50 to $9.10. Fat lambs medium to choice $12 to $14, yearling wethers, medium to choice, $9 to $11.75, fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9, feeding lambs, medium to choice $12 to $14.25.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $4.65-$5.10 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $4.45-$4.55 f.o.b. Rochester. Maine Green Mountains $5-$5.35. Northern Round Whites $4.50-$4.65 on the Chicago carlot market; $4.15-$4.45 f.o.b. Delaware and Maryland yellow varieties sweet potatoes mostly around $2.75 per bushel hamper in the East. Florida pointed type cabbage $2.25-$3 per 1½ bushel hamper. Texas stock irregular in city markets at $70-$100 bulk per ton. New York Baldwin apples $3.25-$4 per barrel in terminal markets; $3-$3.15 f.o.b. Rochester.

Closing butter prices, 92 score: New York 41¢; Chicago 39¾¢; Philadelphia 41¢; Boston 41½¢. Closing prices on Wisconsin primary cheese markets March 25; Single Daisies 20¢; Longhorns 20¼¢.

Grain prices quoted March 26: No. 1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.56-$1.68. No. 2 red winter St. Louis $1.70- Kansas City $1.63. No. 2 hard winter St. Louis $1.63; Kansas City $1.57-$1.60. No. 3 mixed corn Minneapolis 61-63¢; Kansas City 63¾¢. No. 4 mixed corn Chicago 64¾¢. No. 3 yellow corn St. Louis 69½¢; Minneapolis 66-69¢; Kansas City 66½¢. No. 3 white corn St. Louis 70¢; Kansas City 66¢. No. 3 white oats Chicago 40¼¢; Minneapolis 36¾¢; St. Louis 42¢; Kansas City 40¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated markets declined 7 points, closing at 18.25¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 9 points, closing at 18.71¢.

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Mar.26,	Mar. 25,	Mar. 26, 1925
20 Industrials	141.76	140.81	116.78
20 R. R. stocks	107.24	106.88	94.51

(Wall St. Jour., Mar.27.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XX, No. 73 Section 1 March 29, 1926.

BORAH ON FARM HELP . The press of March 28 says: "Senator Borah warned in the Senate March 27 that unless some constructive legislation for the relief of agriculture is enacted at this session of Congress, 'it would mean disaster next fall.' From the way the administration leaders talked, however, there appeared little chance of such measures in the few weeks this session is expected to continue, for Senator Wadsworth, chairman of the Republican steering committee, frankly informed Senator Borah that the committee has to date taken no action looking toward legislation to aid the farmers...."

STATE QUARANTINE POWER The House agricultural committee agreed March 27 to vote to-day on a bill of Senator Jones of Washington to restore to States plant quarantine powers nullified by the Supreme Court decision. (Press, Mar. 28.)

HOOKWORM RESEARCH The Baltimore Sun to-day says: "Plans have been completed for a research expedition to Central America under the leadership of Dr. W. W. Cort, professor of helminthology at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, for the purpose of improving control measures used in combating the hookworm disease, it was announced yesterday at the Hopkins school....One group, which will sail from New Orleans about the first week in June, will consist of Dr. D. L. Augustine, assistant professor of helminthology, department of comparative pathology, Harvard University, and Dr. W. A. Riley, professor of animal biology at the University of Minnesota. The other group, which will leave New York for Nicaragua the latter part of May, will consist of Dr.N.R. Stoll, associate in helminthology in the Hopkins department of medical zoology; Harold Brown, assistant in helminthology at Hopkins, and Dr. Maurice C. Hall, chief of the zoological division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture....."

RADIO ON FARMS A Chicago dispatch to the press of March 29 says: "The importance of radio to the farmers is illustrated in a survey just completed, the National Farm Radio Council reported March 28. Particularly is this noticeable in connection with markets, the council said. A digest of the replies from 43 States showed that more than 46 per cent of them gave specific examples of cash savings effected by the use of radio for the reception of market reports. Practically all of the returns indicated the value to the farmer of having market reports from 24 to 48 hours earlier than heretofore."

BAKING MERGER The New York Times to-day states that a citizens' protest meeting to discuss the charges that merging the large baking companies into a $3,000,000,000 organization means the formation of a trust and a monopoly of part of the Nation's food supply will be addressed by Senator LaFollette and William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, Wednesday evening at New York. Frank P. Walsh will preside and the meeting will be open to the public. The meeting will be under the auspices of the People's Legislative Service of Washington and sponsored by several other organizations.

Section 2

British Agricultural Policy

An editorial in The Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture (London) for March says: "The Government have considered various proposals which have been submitted to them involving subsidies, either direct or indirect, to encourage corn growing or the increase of the arable area, but they have come to the definite conclusion that they can not support or advocate any of them. A subsidy may sometimes be justified as a purely temporary expedient or if it is required to start a new industry like beet sugar, but any general scheme of subsidies for agriculture is open to the gravest objection. They would have to be unlimited in duration and very large in amount to have any material effect in increasing the arable area or the number of workers employed. Even a subsidy of 2 pounds an acre on arable land, which would amount to over 20,000,000 pounds a year, would not necessarily result in any considerable increase, and in the present financial situation of the country, it is impossible to contemplate a large additional charge on public funds without any guarantee of a corresponding national benefit. Moreover, in view of the extreme variations all over the country in the quality or productive capacity of the land, it is impossible to devise any scheme of subsidies which will not result in the payment of a bonus to farmers who do not need it and for which no return will be received by the Nation. The Government have also examined the question from the point of view of national defense and have come to the conclusion that no case has been made out on defense grounds which would justify the expenditure necessary to induce farmers in time of peace to produce more than economic considerations dictate. The maximum possible increase to the national food supply would be relatively small from the defense point of view in comparison to the cost involved. All proposals that have been made on the grounds of national defense have aimed at extending the area under wheat. None of these schemes could make the country self-supporting as regards bread-stuffs except at an impossible cost.....For all these reasons the Government are not prepared to recommend subsidies and they are also definitely opposed to any system of compulsory control of cultivation by committees or officials, which any direct financial assistance to the industry would be certain sooner or later to involve. Such control would, in the opinion of the Government, entirely fail to secure the objects in view, would be intensely repugnant to all classes concerned, and would, if persisted in, lead inevitably to the complete nationalization of the whole farming industry of the country. In the view of the Government, agriculture, of all the industries in the country, is the least adapted to drastic and spectacular action on the part of the State, and its present condition is not such as to justify revolutionary methods. In common with many other industries, it has been severely hit by the fall in prices after the war, but it is weathering the storm and there is no reason to fear that it will not adapt itself to the economic situation."

Cotton Production and Prices

An editorial in The Wall Street Journal for March 27 says: "World production of cotton has now been estimated at 27,800,000 bales, compared with 24,800,000 the preceding year. The announcement of such an increase might well be a blow to the market, which, however, if it is as wise as it usually is, will keep its feet. The force of the blow, for the present at least, is spent. Only future developments, particularly in the American crop, will decide whether this news is bullish or bearish. The American crop of 1925 was 2,458,000 bales larger than that of 1924. Consequently, this great increase, with the exception of 540,000 bales is all in the American crop. Details of foreign production are not

yet given, but the latest estimate from India was 5,064,000 bales, or practically the same as the year before. Therefore, we know there will be no real bear news from that source. It is known that the Egyptian crop is somewhat larger than that of last year. It will probably be found also that Asiatic Russia and the Sudan are increasing their production. Other new fields also are adding somewhat to their output year by year. This is a matter of interest in regard to the future of cotton, but its immediate influence on the market is not large. The situation resolves itself into this: A freak season in the United States resulted in a crop of enormous volume, but low in quality, while the rest of the world made but a moderate increase. How this supply will affect the market is anybody's guess. We do know, however, on the authority of the International Cotton Federation, that in the past season the world used 23,294,000 bales of cotton, the growth of all countries. In the first half of the present season it consumed 12,289,000. If it continues at that rate for the remainder of the season, there will be no large surplus. As almost one-half of the foreign grown cotton was consumed in the first six months, the main problem will lie in the American grown surplus. What effect will that have on the new crop? If the surplus of American grown cotton is added to another large crop, it will have an extremely bearish effect on the market. But if the crop is small, the surplus will not be large enough. As in five seasons our crops ranged from 8,000,000 to 16,000,000 bales, it can be seen that almost anything can happen to the new crop."

Economic Thought

Theo. H. Price, in his weekly review in Commerce and Finance, in the issue for March 24, says: "....There are now two schools of economic thought in the United States. One assumes that our prosperity is invulnerable because our wealth is so great. The other maintains that we can not live unto ourselves alone and that as we produce more than we can use we must have a world market for the excess. As the maintenance of a world market depends upon the peace and progress of the world, it is argued that anything that disturbs conditions abroad will ultimately be felt here and that we must keep on buying and lending if we hope to keep on selling and collecting. The wider acceptance of the latter view is a partial explanation for the week's hesitancy. The stock market is lower. It now advances only when it is lifted. The speculation is forced and without spontaneity. ....The commodity markets have not, however, shared in this tendency, and most merchants seem to feel that a summer of good business is ahead of them if they are but left alone. The cotton goods market is in a satisfactory condition and the demand is up to normal. Raw cotton has fluctuated within narrow limits, but the steadiness of the future market is impressive when the bearishness of the statistical position is considered. Woolen goods are a shade lower, as is raw wool. Wheat and corn lack definite tendency. By threat and investigation the Government is rapidly killing speculation in grain. Rubber continues its gyrations on the rubber exchange, but the fluctuations do not seem to reflect any change in fundamental conditions. Coffee is plainly growing heavier, but the Brazilian Government has not yet found the burden unsupportable although a bent back is indicated by the gradual decline in quotations. Sugar is down to $2\frac{1}{4}$ cents for Cuban raws landed New York. The statistical position is unchanged but the impecunious holders have become impatient...."

French Bread Price

A Paris dispatch to the press of March 27 says: "The price of bread, effective April 6, will be increased to one franc and sixty-five centimes a kilogram (2.2 pounds). This announcement, following upon statement by

M. Durand, Minister of Agriculture, that a fall in the price of wheat was probable, means that the French wheat growers are running the risk of withholding their wheat from the market in the hope of a further increase. The Temps forecasts a further rise in the price of bread, pointing out that wheat has risen five francs in the last week and that flour has jumped from 197 francs to 204 francs a quintal."

Immigration An article in The Magazine of Wall Street for March 27 says: "Is immigration restriction an unmixed success? Like prohibition, a scoffer might say, 'Let's wait till we try it before we answer.' Officially, the net immigration of aliens to the United States during the first fiscal year of the new quota law, ending June 30, 1925, was only 202,000. Nobody knows what the bootleg immigration was; perhaps it was another 200,000. If so, our net immigration is not so much smaller than it used to be when there was no numerical restriction by law. But for the purposes of this discussion we shall assume that alien immigration is legal immigration. Then, against the million of some pre-war years and the annual 400,000 net, of the four immediately preceding years we are now receiving only 200,000 immigrants a year, after deducting emigrants. Of these 200,000 a little over 100,000 enter gainful occupations. Is that enough for a growing and expanding country which before the war absorbed 627,000 immigrants a year, of whom more than 300,000 were economic workers? If our national economy has not yet arrived at the 'diminishing returns' stage, the obvious economic answer is that we who are here will suffer because we deny access to our industrial circle to hundreds of thousands who would come. So long as we could provide work for the foreigners we were all better off in a business sense because they came. They earned more than their keep, else they would not have found jobs, and the surplus was a net addition to national wealth. But the real situation is worse than the stark figures make it. Of the 200,000 net immigrants we are now getting, Canada--not affected by the quota law so far as Canadian citizens are concerned--is giving us 100,000. Except for the French Canadians, of whom we are receiving about 20,000 a year, the Canadians are pre-eminently white-collar immigrants. They contribute but a small quota to the manual workers and scarcely any to the rolls of common labor.....The 'new immigration' from Europe is only 20 per cent laborers--and one-third of them are agricultural. It is doubtful if the immigration act is giving us a gain of much more than 50,000 alien industrial laborers a year; one-sixth of what we have been absorbing with ease. Including the natives, it is estimated that our present rate of industrial growth requires 750,000 new workers a year--or fifteen times our present worker immigration and 300,000 more than natural and immigration population growth now yield."

Milk Production in Britain Country Life (London) for March 13 contains an extensive article on "Clean Milk Production," demonstrating the advance in the industry by a full and illustrated description of "White Place," Lord Astor's project. The article says in part: "Except in a few isolated cases, there is a widespread recognition, in medical circles, of the food value of milk but an actual reference to the average British consumption indicates that this is neither creditable nor satisfactory. Thus, the report of the Astor committee in 1918 indicated that the average daily consumption was less than one-third of a pint per head, an amount much below that consumed in the United States and Scandinavian countries. While various reasons have been assigned to this relatively low consumption of milk, it is well

to remember that, in the past, milk has been produced and handled in such a way as to damp much of the enthusiasm which ought to exist for it. Fortunately, we are now entering upon a new era in milk production, and which is definitely associated with the results of the scientific investigations of dairying problems....In view of these facts, there has been an important movement inaugurated during the past six or seven years to place on the market a sample of milk which as closely as possible represents the product as it leaves the udder of the cow, with only a very small number of harmless bacteria present....From the commencement of the clean milk movement in this country, Lord Astor has been prominent in its advocacy, and was one of the first to place this product on the market....."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products Mar. 27: Cattle receipts at seven large midwestern markets for the week were around 10,000 head fewer than a week earlier. Calf receipts diminished about 1,000 for the week. Hog receipts also showed a decrease amounting to about 50,000 for the week. Receipts of sheep showed an increase of about 25,000 for the week. Cattle compared with a week ago; fed steers were mostly 25¢ lower, lower grades and stockers and feeders showing the maximum decline; fat she stock was 25 to 50¢ lower with vealers 50¢ to $1 higher. Sheep: Fat lambs were generally 50 to 75¢ lower, yearlings 25 to 50¢ lower and fat sheep firm.

Hay market practically steady except at Pittsburgh. Receipts generally moderate and offerings of good hay readily absorbed. Low grades easier with approach of spring.

Feed market not materially changed during past week. Wheatfeed prices steady but demand not of large volume and prices for deferred shipment slightly lower than spot or prompt delivery. Linseed meal slightly firmer on light offerings, prices up 50¢ to $1 per ton on domestic meal. Market unchanged on cottonseed meal.

Cotton - Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 2 points during the week. New York May future contracts advanced 10 points.

Old potatoes continued to advance; new stock firm. Northern Round Whites closed 70¢-75¢ higher than a week ago in Chicago at $4.60-$4.75 per 100 pounds and $4.25-$4.50 f.o.b. Florida Spaulding Rose $17 per barrel in Pittsburgh. New York Baldwin apples were in rather limited demand at $3-$4 per barrel in terminal markets and $3-$3.15 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage $2-$3 per 1½ bushel hamper. New York yellow onions $2.50-$3.25 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities; mostly $3 f.o.b. Rochester.

Grain market firm after decline. Wheat futures slightly higher than week ago. Cash wheat firmer than futures at most markets account improved milling inquiry at the lower prices. Corn futures fractionally lower but cash corn higher at principal markets. Oats working higher with good inquiry for cash offerings although dealers in Southwest cautious about increasing their holdings, account good prospects for Texas crop.

Butter markets were unsettled and sensitive during the week. Prices declined slightly. Supplies were heavy and accumulated under the light demand. Receipts at the leading terminal markets continued to run heavier than a year ago by about 12%.

Cheese markets were steadier and prices on the cheese boards at Plymouth, Wis. on March 26 were unchanged from previous week. Trade was slow with supplies heavy. Prices are now about 3¢ lower than a year ago.

Industrials and Railroads	Average closing price	Mar. 27,	Mar. 26,	Mar. 27, 1925
	20 Industrials	139.02	141.76	117.48
	20 R.R. stocks	107.26	107.24	94.70

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 29.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Vol. XX, No. 74 Section 1 March 30, 1926.

FARM RELIEF LEGISLATION The Associated Press to-day says: "As House hearings on the Corn Belt farm relief bill neared an end Mar.29, and the Senate agricultural committee discussed its provisions preliminary to examination of witnesses, Chairman Norris announced in the Senate that Congress would be called on to vote at this session on the crop-surplus question. Promising that his committee would bring in a bill, the Senator said none of the measures thus far proposed meet with the approval of President Coolidge. 'I am told,' he added, 'that neither he nor the Secretary of Agriculture favors legislation on the farm-surplus problem. They favor the cooperative bill and that's all.' Senator Norris's statement was made after proponents of the Corn Belt bill had closed their case before the House agricultural committee, with S.H.Thompson, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, submitting the final statement in its behalf."

Senator Capper told the Senate agricultural committee yesterday that organized millers are seeking to defeat the farm relief bill, according to The Washington Post to-day.

FARM SELECTION IN NORTHWEST A Minneapolis dispatch to the press to-day says: "One result of agricultural changes in the Northwest in the last three years, the Federal Reserve Bank here notes, is more careful selection of farm land by producers. Decreases in the number of farms are noted in Montana western North Dakota and northwestern South Dakota, while there have been increases in northern Minnesota, southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota. The size of the average farm in Minnesota and North and South Dakota has decreased, while the average in Montana has increased greatly. The number of tenant farmers in the Northwest has increased about 25 per cent in the last five years. The increase in this respect was the least in Minnesota and the greatest in Montana."

SOUTH ON COTTON ESTIMATE A New Orleans dispatch to the press to-day says: "While it is true that the final ginning estimate of 16,103,586 bales was somewhat larger than had been anticipated, the difference was so small that the total, meaning as it does a crop of 17,250,000 bales, including linters, had practically no effect on the market, and once the report was out of the way prices rallied slightly. A carry-over of fully 5,000,000 bales of American cotton at the end of the season has been anticipated for a little while back, and the Census Bureau's ginning total warranted no change in that anticipation. The total means, however, that there is now unmarketed in the South about twice as much cotton as was unmarketed at this time last year."

GRAIN EXPORTS Exports of grain from the United States for the week ending March 27 totaled 850,000 bushels against 1,122,000 the week before.

Figures issued yesterday by the Commerce Department gave the following comparisons for the two weeks: Barley, 37,000 bushels, against 111,000; corn, 318,000, against 276,000; oats, 99,000, against 15,000; rye, 127,000, against none, and wheat, 224,000, against 720,000.

Section 2

Agriculture versus Industry

An editorial in Wallaces' Farmer for March 19 says: "It behooves every one in the United States to watch developments in England with the very greatest care. England is the outstanding case of a nation which has sacrificed her agriculture for the sake of far-flung industrial and commercial enterprises. Has it been worth while? Since the war, with her tremendous unemployment, England has begun to doubt it. ~~xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~..Do we want the United States to become a preponderately commercial and industrial nation? Do we want living conditions to be so much more attractive in the towns and cities that for the most part the best blood will be pulled away from the farms? This is a matter of national policy, a matter in which both laboring men and farmers are vitally interested. In adopting a national policy we should not think about the welfare of any one class, but the longtime good of all classes. We feel that the farmer has everything to gain and nothing to lose by appealing to eastern industrial and republican leaders to look upon the proposition from this standpoint. The only question is as to whether or not it is possible for men so trained to take anything but a short-time business point of view."

Corn Holding

An editorial in The Prairie Farmer for March 20 says: "The unwillingness of farmers to sell corn below cost, as well as their financial ability to wait for better markets, is shown by the fact that Illinois farmers were holding 205,682,000 bushels of corn March 1. This is twice the amount on hand a year ago and nearly twice the five-year average. Indiana farmers were holding 106,699,000 bushels March 1, nearly three times as much as a year ago. In Iowa 253,653,000 bushels were in farm storage March 1 as compared with 97,772,000 a year ago. In the case of corn that will keep through hot weather, this policy of waiting for a better price would seem to be a wise one."

Cost Accounting

An editorial in The Estate Magazine (London) for March says: "Cost-accounts are now accepted as an indispensable feature of modern business. The manufacturer knows almost to a penny not only the cost of his goods as they leave his works, but the cost of every process involved in their production. The merchant can estimate with equal accuracy the cost of putting any particular article in the hands of the customer in any particular market. The keener the competition and the narrower the margin between expenditure and receipts, the more indispensable do such cost--accounts become. But agriculture is like a vast uncharted ocean upon which few accountants and statisticians venture; for on it blow all the winds of nature, and nature knows no rules and conforms to no system. The farmer, unlike the manufacturer, works in the open, exposed to interference by her at every step. If he is a wise man, he endeavors to adapt his methods to her vagaries since he can not disregard them; which renders it extremely difficult to compress the business of farming into figures. Agricultural costings present problems unknown to the commercial accountant. Nearly all farmers keep accounts of some sort, bare statements of receipts and expense, of debts and credits; but there are very few who can do more than guess what it costs them to produce a sack of wheat or a gallon of milk, or compute the comparative profits of, say, rearing and fattening on their own particular farm....Thus it is that the advent of the agricultural economist has been hailed with an appreciable degree of enthusiasm, and it is not unreasonable to expect that agriculture will advance more quickly and more surely by reason of the light that his revelations will shed on many problems. One of his chief functions is to

investigate the cost of food production on the farm and the economics of farm management....The whole fabric of British agriculture is an intricate interweaving of crops and stock, and the only costing system that adequately represents this state of affairs is one that regards cash-yielding crops and stock, not as cash customers for labor, fertility and feed, but as machines whereby the raw materials of the farm as a whole are converted into cash. The work of the economist is first to ascertain the relative cost of the various raw materials and the relative efficiency of the machines employed, and second to devise and suggest means whereby undue waste and inefficiency may be eliminated....To be able to estimate and interpret farm costs with any degree of success the economist must also be a practical agriculturalist. Otherwise he can not fully appreciate the significance of the multitude of unstable factors, to disregard which may wreck the whole system, besides prejudicing the mental attitude towards it of those whom it is intended most to benefit....."

Implement Tariff

An editorial in Farm Implement News for March 18 says: "Some of the daily newspapers, trying to curry favor with the farmers, have spent a great deal of space during the past few years howling about the tariff on farm machines and demanding that it be removed. At last they have learned that there is no tariff on farm machines; that such equipment has been on the free list for many years. Now they grudgingly admit that manufacturers of farm machines have no tariff protection, and have turned their batteries on the tariff on steel and other materials used in the production of farm equipment. To what extent the tariff on materials affects implement prices we do not know. This could be determined only by a thorough investigation. ...It has been shown by an investigation conducted by the National Industrial Conference Board that the implement employer's dollar, calling it pai in 1913, is worth only 44 cents now. Which is rather a graphic illustration of the increase in labor costs....We have been familiar with the conditions with respect to tariff on implements for many years and we do not recall that any demand was ever made for tariff protection except the demand for a reciprocal arrangement with Canada, an arrangement by which the United States would impose the same duty on Canadian-made implements as Canada imposed upon implements made in this country. But this demand was rejected by Congress during Republican as well as Democratic administrations. Canadian-made machines are being sold in this country and they come in free of duty, while Canada collects a duty on machines made here and shipped into Canada."

Milk Rates

The press of March 29 states that the proposed rate increases on milk and cream in interstate transportation between New England points was ordered postponed March 27 by the Interstate Commerce Commission until July 30, pending hearings before the commission. The hearings will be started on April 20.

Retirement Costs

The press of March 28 says: "Cost to the Government of the proposed liberalized civil service retirement measure will run from $35,000,000 to $55,000,000 annually, according to what may be the terms, the actuarial board reported March 27, instead of $6,711,497 a year under existing law. Notwithstanding this, Robert H. Alcorn, chairman of the joint conference on retirement, representing a majority of Government employees, still has hope that the new legislation will be passed before Congress adjourns. The actuarial board's report reached Secretary of the Interior Work March 27 and he will submit it to the House and Senate civil service committees."

Shanghai Seeks Wheat

A Seattle dispatch to the press of March 27 states that Shanghai flour milling interests are in the Puget Sound market for 16,000 tons of Washington grown turkey red wheat. Inquiries from the Orient for local grain are increasing, and shippers announce they will be able to work twenty-five cargoes for those markets before the next harvest if suitable grades can be found and prices are competitive with No. 2 Canadian Northern. The Orient has been unable to get needed supplies from Canada, as No.2 wheat is reported to have been cleaned up."

Surplus Problem

An editorial in The Grain Growers' Guide (Winnipeg) for March 17 says: "The farmers of the United States continue to beseige Washington with demands for governmental aid in solving their 'surplus' problem. They have found that a tariff on famm products is of little or no use so long as they produce a surplus over home requirements. The economic law that the price received for the exportable surplus of a farm commodity governs the price received for it in the home market as well continues to operate in spite of tariff enactments....The idea of bonusing exports is being tried out in Australia. About one-third of the butter produced in that country finds export outlets. Under what is known as the Paterson stabilization scheme a levy of two cents a pound is made on all butter manufactured. From the fund thus created a bonus of six cents a pound is paid on the one-third of the product which is exported. This, it is hoped, will have the effect of increasing automatically the home price to the extent of the export bonus, with a resulting net gain of four cents a pound on the butter consumed locally. The plan has been in operation since January 1, but no information has yet arrived as to its effect on butter prices. Even if the plan works with Australian butter it is no guarantee that a somewhat similar plan would work with products of such wide range and tremendous volume as the chief agricultural products of the United States. The machinery required to handle a project of such magnitude might well put a strain on the acknowledged American genius for big business. There is a feeling in many quarters, supported by many of the big pooling cooperatives, that the plan the farmers of Western Canada are pursuing of organizing for marketing on an adequate scale offers far more promising results than artificial government schemes such as the Dickinson bill proposes."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

1 An editorial in The Standard, Corland, N.Y., for March 25 says: "Secretary of Agriculture Jardine has just returned from a trip through the Border and Southern States marked with enthusiasm at every step.... Without any desire to pay the Secretary a compliment, it can be said that his attitude since taking office, has helped materially towards the dissolution of the so-called farm bloc, which was a factor in the last Congress. The farm bloc had its origin in the grievances which the farmers had, and again in their feeling that their grievances were not being given proper attention by those in high places. But when the leaders and promoters of this group found they had a Secretary open-minded and without prejudices, who could talk their own language, the continuance of the grievances committee became unnecessary. It is characteristic of the attitude of the Secretary and the administration that even in this present session the doors of the committee on agriculture have been thrown wide open to all who cared to attend and speak, and when a decision is finally made as to what farm legislation will be enacted, there will be no opportunity for any grievance committee to claim it was denied a fair hearing with ample time."

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Department of Agriculture 2

In referring to the group of helminthologists who will shortly leave for Central America to improve control measures in combating the hookworm disease (recorded in yesterday's Daily Digest.) The Baltimore Sun to-day refers to Dr. Maurice C. Hall, chief of the Zoological Division Bureau of Animal Industry, and a member of the party, as follows: "Doctor Hall, of the Nicaraguan group of investigators, is considered the greatest authority in the world on the treatment of parasitic ofganism. He is the discoverer of tetrachloride, which has been proved to be one of the most effective drugs used in the treatment of the hookworm disease. In Nicaragua, Doctor Hall expects to experiment with tetrachlorethylene, a new drug which he has never ~~xxxx~~ tried upon human patients."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

March 29: Chicago hog prices closed at $13 for the top, bulk of sales $11 to $12.10; beef steers choice $10.25 to $11; cows, good and choice, $6.50 to $8.25; canner and cutters $3.85 to $4.85; vealers, medium to choice, $10 to $13.50; heavy calves, medium to choice $6 to $7.75; stocker and feeder steers common and choice, $6.50 to $9; fat lambs, medium to choice $11.75 to $13.85; yearling wethers, medium to choice $9 to $11.50; fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9; feeding lambs, medium to choice $11.75 to $14.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $5 to $5.15 per 100 pounds in eastern cities; mostly $4.65 f.o.b, Rochester. Delaware and Maryland Yellow varieties of sweet potatoes $2.50 to $3.00 per bushel hamper in the East. Texas domestic type cabbage $90 to $100 bulk per ton in eastern markets; $60 to $80 in midwestern cities and $35 to $40 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples fairly steady at $3 to $4 per barrel in leading markets; $3 to $3.15 f.o.b. Rochester.

Closing prices on 92 score butter: New York 41¢; Philadelphia 40 3/4¢; Boston 41 1/2¢.

Grain prices quoted March 29: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.56 to $1.67. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.71. No.2 hard winter St.Louis $1.61. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 61¢; No.4 mixed corn Chicago 65 1/2 to 67¢. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 73¢. No.3 yellow corn Minneapolis 65 to 68¢; St.Louis 68 3/4¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 40 1/4¢; Minneapolis 36 1/2¢; St.Louis 41 1/4¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot ~~markets~~ advanced 6 points during the week, closing at 18.41¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 17 points, closing at 18.89¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Mar. 29,	Mar. 27,	Mar. 28, 1925
20 Industrials	134.49	139.02	116.30
20 R.R. stocks	105.15	107.26	93.73

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 30.)

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DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. XX, No. 75 Section 1 March 31, 1926.

FARM VALUES The Associated Press to-day reports: "A shrinkage in the value of American farms and farm buildings from $66,316,002,602 in 1920, to $49,546,523,759 in 1925 was estimated by the Department of Commerce yesterday in a preliminary report on the latest agricultural census. The decrease amounts to a little more than 25 per cent. Farm acreage in the same period declined from 955,883,715 to 924,889,380 acres, and the department's division of land economics calculated the decline in the average acre value of land and buildings at 22 per cent, and for land alone at 28 per cent. The value of farm buildings, it explained, increased 6 per cent. The 1925 figures, compared with those for 1910, indicated an increase of 35 per cent in the average farm value, but considering the drop in the purchasing power of the dollar during that interval, the economists concluded there was actually a net decline of 10 to 12 per cent during that period. The decline during the past five years was not general, the department's experts found, the shrinkage in values having been greatest in the range country, the wheat and corn belts and the eastern cotton States, while a slight increase was recorded in New England and the Middle Atlantic States. In the Mountain States the decline amounted to 41 per cent; in Iowa, 34, and in Georgia 40 per cent. The increase in New England was 6 per cent, and in the Middle Atlantic States 1 per cent. Pacific Coast values remained constant...."

IN CONGRESS The House agricultural committee yesterday took up farm relief legislation, according to the press to-day.

The House public lands committee yesterday approved the administration bill to regulate grazing on the public domain and the national forests. (Press, Mar. 31.)

The Washington Post to-day says: "Government employees' retirement was jockeyed into an easier place, theoretically if not actually, yesterday. Majority Leader Tilson, of the House, conferred with the President and is understood to have been asked to give the proposed legislation a preferred place on the House program. But the President also was represented as not being ready to commit himself to any kind of legislation until he could study the report of the board of actuaries.... The House civil service committee is to meet to-day, and is understood to be ready to report immediately a bill providing for retirement at the ages of 58, 60 and 62 years. This bill has already been agreed to, and it is problematical whether the age limits will be changed in the light of the actuaries' figures. Senator Stanfield, chairman of the subcommittee having the Senate bill in charge, also plans to proceed with a bill. This committee is expected to increase the age limits to 62 and 65 years, respectively, in order to lower the cost and thus center its efforts on increased annuities....."

COTTON ACREAGE A Harlingen, Tex., dispatch to the press to-day says: "An increase of approximately 3½ per cent in the cotton acreage in the Lower Rio Grande valley this season indicates that there will be that much addition to the production over last year's total yield of 110,000 bales....To promptly handle the prospective big crop, ten new gins have been erected and will be ready for operating when the picking season opens."

Section 2

Apple Exports Exports of boxed apples , the Commerce Department figures show, fell from 6,718,872 boxes in 1924 to 4,922,140 last year, while values declined from $15,739,601 to $12,787,495. Barreled apples also show decreased exports in 1925, amounting to 1,706,916 barrels worth $8,275,589, as against 1,880,715 valued at $8,547,442. Commercial apple production increased, the 1925 figure being 31,909,000 barrels, as against 28,063,-000 the year before. The State of Washington led all others, with New York second, Michigan and Idaho tied for third place, and Virginia, Oregon, Illinois, California, and Pennsylvania, following in order. (Press, Mar. 29.)

Calcium Arsenate Supply and Price Commerce Monthly (New York) for April says: "The cotton planter by a combination of fortuitous circumstances has for the past two years escaped paying heavy toll to the boll weevil. Consequently sizable supplies of calcium arsenate, the insecticide considered the most effective weapon in controlling the weevil, are on hand, as relatively small amounts were used in 1924 and 1925 after general expectations of liberal distribution. In fact, present stocks, variously estimated at 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 pounds, are sufficient to supply normal demand this season with little further production. Consumption of calcium arsenate reached its peak level, estimated at 32,000,000 pounds, in the big season of 1923 and practically exhausted the quantity on hand, forcing the price up to 40 cents a pound in a few instances....Prices of white arsenic, from which calcium arsenate is made, and of calcium arsenate show the effects of two years' depression. Arsenic has been selling officially at 3 1/2 to 4 cents a pound, but sales at 3 cents are reported to have taken place. Calcium arsenate was quoted on the market at 5 1/2 to 7 cents a pound in the middle of March but transactions at 5 cents or less are not unknown. These prices are the lowest in ten years and in general below actual production costs....."

Electricity on French Farms The use of electricity by farms as motive power for sawing, pumping, threshing and farm work generally is developing considerably in France, according to advices received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York from its French information service. Rural industries, especially in the Department of Isere, have shown considerable progress since electricity was introduced.

Flour Consumption An editorial in The Northwestern Miller for March 24 says: "Statistics compiled in part by the United States Department of Agriculture in part by Sydney Anderson, distributed last week in the form of a Millers' National Federation circular, indicate that in the past thirty-seven years per capita consumption of wheat flour in this country has declined about twenty-two per cent, from 5.48 bushels in 1889 to 4.26 bushels in 1925. The present rate of consumption is lower than in the years immediately following the period of wheat saving, and is less than in any year save 1921....Indicative of the unreliability of all consumption figures is the fact that for several of the years covered by the Federation compilation there is an irreconcilable difference between its figures of indicated consumption of wheat flour for the calendar year and other data estimating consumption for the nearest comparable crop year. For instance, Federation estimates of flour consumption for the years 1914, 1918, 1921 and 1923 are respectively--in millions of barrels--106, 107, 96 and 99; for the same years, estimates compiled by The Northwestern

Miller, attempting to make its figures agree with the production and disappearance of wheat, are, respectively, 100, 98, 106 and 115 million barrels. It will be noted that for 1921 and 1923 the disparity between the figures is from ten to sixteen million barrels. It is not intended specifically to challenge the federation's compilation, which is undoubtedly sufficiently accurate so far as census flour production figures serve accuracy. Those data are, however, at best somewhat sketchy and incomplete, and their use necessitates various allowances and estimates for small mill production....On the whole, therefore, it seems fair to believe that flour consumption estimates which take into account wheat production, exports and carry-over figures are more accurate than those based on mill output of flour; and to the extent that the current federation statistics disagree with the other method of reckoning, they must be questioned. This is the easier to do in that it follows inclination in dislike to accept an estimate of such an amazing decrease in flour consumption in this country. Having, to a degree, questioned the accuracy of President Anderson's data, The Northwestern Miller has no difficulty whatever in agreeing with his argument in conclusion. Regardless of the exact amount, it is plain to the eyes of every one that there is a fairly steady decrease in the rate of flour consumption. Bread has lost the majesty of its former place as the staff of life. Living conditions, habits of diet, commercial baking developments and numerous other causes are responsible....Either defensive measures must be undertaken or the consumption of wheat white flour and its products will go on declining, until and except in event of hard times and enforced consumption of more economical staple foods. It is possible for milling to restore flour to its place in consumption. Furthered as a part of such an effort would do much to drive the devils of discord out of the midst of this industry."

Food Supply An editorial in The Washington Post for March 30 says: "About a century and a quarter ago Thomas Malthus evolved the theory that in all ages population has tended to outrun subsistence, and that the time will come when the food supply of the world will not be sufficient to sustain its increased population. To-day, the American farmers are doubting the truth of the dictum of the English economist and theorist, since there is a surplus of staple farm products. Groups of western farmers are storming the portals of the Capitol asking for some relief for a 'surplus' which they can not sell in the American or foreign markets at a price sufficiently high to cover cost of production, to say nothing of a profit. The officials in the Department of Agriculture are urging the farmers to rotate their crops in order to avoid overproduction of any one crop. In other words, so far as the United States is concerned, there is too much food of various sorts, and not enough people to consume it. This appears to be a contradiction of the theory Thomas Malthus enunciated, and which has been generally accepted by all theorists. It is another case of facts denying theories. Theorists now explain the situation by citing the law of what they call 'diminishing returns;' that is, land yields less and less as the years go by, and only science makes it possible to overcome this law. This is precisely what science and study have done. They have also made the Malthusian theory a back number, so far as the United States is concerned. To-day American farmers, although relatively fewer in number, are producing an excess of foods and grains. The production of grains and food products in foreign countries is also progressing to a high degree. The world increase in food is outstripping the increase in

world population. This is not the first time that accepted theories have given way to modern improvements."

New York Milk Supply — The New York Times of March 29 says: "New York City's milk supply, the safest and most sanitary in the world, took many years and millions of dollars to develop. An idea of the complexity of the service may be gathered from the fact that more than 1,000,000 gallons of milk come dail into the city from localities as far distant as 500 miles. The story of how the system has grown is graphically told by Orrin T. Pierson in the March issue of the Dairymen's League News."

South's Development — The American Review of Reviews for April devotes the greater part of its issue to "The New South," a series of articles by prominent writers. Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, writes at length under the title, "America Discovers Dixie." He says in part: "Nevertheless, it should be frankly admitted that up to now the South has but half realized upon the advantages offered us by our long growing season. Our soils are less fertile than those of other sections, and one reason is that our mild winters--which we should make a priceless asset by having green fields of cover crops all winter long for soil-improvement and stock feeding--we have often allowed to become an agricultural liability, because on bare lands our mild winters let fertility leach away. The cold winters of the North lock up fertility there; the spring thaws find the soil neither richer nor poorer than in the fall. Here in the South, by neglecting the advantages offered by mild winters, our soils are poorer in spring. By utilizing the mild winters, we can not only maintain soil-fertility but grow something to increase it all winter long; and this is part of a well-rounded program of agricultural progress which is fast remaking Dixie....Moreover, the opportunities and probabilities of further agricultural expansion are far greater in the South than in other sections for a very patent reason. I have already referred to the fact that in 1923 North Carolina, cultivating 7,000,000 acres, piled up $434,000,000 in crop values while Iowa, cultivating 21,000,000 acres, reached only $481,000,000. There is the point: We in the South have high-value-per-acre crops and we are as yet cultivating only a fraction of the acreage that is suitable to cultivation. We have twice the growing season of the leading western States and while they have almost reached their maximum of acreage,...our Southern States can easily double or triple their crop acreage. Of the total land surface of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, and North Dakota, more than half is already growing harvested crops, while as yet the percentage of land in cultivation in various Southern States is only as follows: Virginia, 23; North Carolina, 21; South Carolina, 30; Georgia, 33; Florida, 5; Alabama, 25; Mississippi,22; Louisiana, 14; Arkansas, 20; Tennessee, 28; Texas, 15. It is plain, therefore, that as the South develops industrially, and as cities and towns grow and thereby enlarge the market for all farm products, vast new areas of farm lands will be brought into cultivation, and since the opportunity for such increase does not exist in the West, the already narrow margin between Southern and Western States in crop values will disappear, and Southern rather than Western States will inevitably sooner or later take the lead in the Nation."

Section 3

Department of Agriculture

An editorial in Southern Planter for April 1 says: "Last month the United States Department of Agriculture undertook an innovation which may prove valuable to our farming people, and is certain to prove interesting to many of them, particularly the women. Each day, the department broadcasts the answers to fifty timely questions propounded by farmers. It is not difficult to find a sufficiency of queries. The problem is rather one of selection; for every day the bureaus of the department receive thousands of questions, widely dissimilar and covering virtually every agricultural subject....This is a great age of ours--when we can get amusement and valuable information right out of the air, when all we have to do is to tune in."

Section 4

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

March 30: Chicago hog prices closed at $13 for the top, bulk of sales $11.10 to $12.20. Beef steers choice $10.35 to $11; heifers, good and choice, $7 to $10.25; cows, good and choice, $6.25 to $8; common and medium $4.75 to $6.25; canner and cutter $3.75 to $4.75; vealers, medium to choice, $9.50 to $13.25; heavy calves, medium to choice, $6 to $7.50; fat lambs $11.50 to $13.50; yearling wethers medium to choice, $9 to $11.25; fat ewes, common to choice, $5.50 to $9; feeding lambs medium to choice, $11.50 to $13.50.

New York sacked Round White potatoes $4.95 to $5.15 per 100 pounds in eastern markets; $4.65 to $4.75 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida pointed type cabbage sold mostly at $2.25 to $2.75 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in the East. Texas domestic type weaker at $60 to $100 bulk per ton in distributing centers; $35 to $40 f.o.b. Best midwestern yellow onions sold around $3 to $3.50 sacked per 100 pounds in consuming centers. New York Baldwin apples fairly steady at $3 to $4 per barrel in leading markets; slightly weaker at $3 f.o.b. Rochester. Florida Klondike strawberries 35¢ to 50¢ quart basis in city markets, top of 60¢ in Baltimore.

Grain prices quoted March 30: No.1 dark northern Minneapolis $1.57 to $1.67. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.66. No.3 mixed corn Minneapolis 62¢; No.4 mixed corn Chicago 66 3/4¢. No.2 mixed corn 71 1/2¢; No.2 yellow corn Chicago 74¢. Minneapolis 66 to 69¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 40 3/4¢; Minneapolis 37 1/2¢.

Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 11 points, closing at 18.52¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 16 points, closing at 19.05¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Mar. 30,	Mar. 29,	Mar. 30, 1925
20 Industrials	135.20	135.49	115.09
20 R.R. stocks	102.41	105.15	92.98

(Wall St. Jour., Mar. 31.)

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Hoffman